University of Connecticut School of Law
Student Bar Association (SBA) Meeting
09 08 2010, 9:30 PM, Library 202

Attendance (absences in strikeouts):

Executive Board:
  Yamuna Menon, YM, President
  DeVaughn Ward, DW, Vice President
  Bethany DiMarzio, BD, Secretary
  David Shufrin, DS, Treasurer

Class Representatives:
  2L Day - Blake Holler, BH
  2L Day - Sebastian Tornatore, ST
  2L Day - Allison Pannozzo, AP
  2L Day - Mike Barrese, MB
  3L Day - Zohaib "Z" Rasheed, ZR
  3L Day - Angie Lachhman, AL
  3L Day - Jeff Chase, JC
  3L Day - Jon Schaefer, JS
  Upperclass Evening - Marco Allocca, MA
  Upperclass Evening - Dan Csuka, DC
  Upperclass Evening - Jeff Kanca, JK
  Upperclass Evening - BJ Pivonka, BP

Also in Attendance:
  Peter Kim
  Grace Hebbel
  Brynn Cullen
  Robby Canning
  Tamara Kramer
  Ethan (Yifei) He
  Lauren Crudele
  Kelly Kirby
  Lindsay Weber
  Patricia Pernes
  Michael Thomason
YM – call to order 9:31 PM.

**Motion to begin meeting** – AL  
Second – BP  
Yes – all  
No – none  
Abstentions – none  
**Motion Passes**

YM – welcome to everyone for the first SBA meeting of the year. We’re going to go though a few logistical items and the e-board will give updates.

**Motion to approve last meeting’s minutes** – MA  
Second – BH  
Yes – all  
No – none  
Abstentions – none  
**Motion Passes**

YM – is there any public comment? This is an opportunity for anyone to speak.

*No comment*

YM – seeing none, we will turn to e-board for updates.

DW – orientation had a great turnout. We had a social event at Wood-N-Tap, and it seemed like people liked it. There is a possibility to do informal events there on Thursdays in the future. Welcome Back BBQ had a great turnout and was a big success.

YM – passing around committee appointment sheet, so please confirm that the committee you are listed under is the one you want to be on.

DW – there has been a proposal for an SBA retreat; would love to hear what the reps think. Could be hiking, softball, volleyball, paintball, laser tag, kickball. Does this sound interesting?

*General assent*

YM – it would be nice to get together and not talk shop!

DW – it’s good to know who else is serving with you, and a retreat would be a good opportunity to get to know people. We will wait to do this until after elections so we have a full SBA, probably around the end of September.
YM – any comments on the time frame? Late September?

[General assent that this is a good time]

DW – we had an interesting situation with football tickets. Last year we got 11 season student tickets, but this year they sold out. We were able to purchase four season ticket packages this year, but they’re not in the student section, they are regular admission. We will sell them at cost, so each game will cost about $20, and they’ll be first come, first served at the co-op. The budget committee had to have a special meeting to approve the funding, so thanks to the budget committee for taking the time to work on this. There was some discussion as to whether to sell them at a subsidy or at cost. The consensus was to start selling at cost and look into subsidizing if necessary. The tickets should be available tomorrow; an e-mail will go out sometime in the afternoon.

Homecoming this year is against Vanderbilt the week of October 2. DW is looking into purchasing a group block of tickets for this game only, maybe 50-100 tickets total for the law school. This is something the Social Committee will discuss.

50th SBA Anniversary – DW and YM met with the Law School Foundation about this event. We want to invite alumni back to mingle with students and celebrate the existence of the SBA.

YM – most people don’t know that there are a lot of distinguished names that were SBA members, namely, Kevin O’Connor.

DW – we’re still trying to work on what kind of event we want (party, meet and greet, or something with a purpose, like establishing a speaker fund or scholarship on behalf of the SBA). DW is interested in hearing your viewpoint...either now or we can continue this in the future.

Fall Ball is traditionally early November, which causes congestion of events. This year, we want to move it to Homecoming day, and make it an all-day Homecoming event. Some people have said that this might be too busy of a day. When the Social Committee meets, we will discuss this, but keep it in mind for now.

Halloween Party will be on October 30 at the Pond House in Elizabeth Park. It’s a nice venue right on the pond. We will do food, DJ, drinks. For 1Ls, even if you’re not officially on SBA, you can still give input through the social committee. For official committee members, see DW for a minute after the meeting.

DS – Treasurer’s report: had a PowerPoint that didn’t make it here tonight! Savings has $40,000, checking $37,000, we have $3,000 checks outstanding (so checking is really about $34,000). There is an increase in students this year so we’re looking at $120,000 total operating budget (each student pays $82 into this fund). We have received
$14,000 of this so we should have $106,000 coming in. In cash, we have $175,000 in total cash assets right now. We also have assets such as TVs in Third and Fourth Floor lounges, rugs, Blu-Ray player, and the lockers.

Budgets are due 9/17 from all student groups. The Budget Committee will meet with student groups on 9/20, 9/21, 9/23 throughout the day, and on 9/24 will be convening all day.

Last year, we passed new bylaws for discretionary allocations to be reported to the SBA. The treasurer can allocate $500 at a time; anything beyond that must receive an affirmative vote by the reps. So far, we used discretionary funds towards Direct TV service for Knight and the Library for $80. The administration approached us to get a bus for the 1L orientation; we paid $250 towards that and $250 towards food. $500 for football tickets, as DW mentioned. $40 to update plaque in SBA office. $84 for library student lounge opening event – we used our coffee maker and still have coffee left over. $36 for pizza for student group info session yesterday. $40 for baseball equipment that is now on rent to students at the Library Circ Desk (this came from the Journals – bases, softballs, one bat). If you see people using this stuff in the quad, please tell them to relocate!

E-board met with the administration to talk about combining events. We have a problem with audience fatigue, and there are prominent speakers coming in to poorly attended events. We are going to try to work to combine events and make bigger events that will have good food and good attendance. If you have any ideas on how to make this work, let DS know.

Facilities report – the lockers are installed in Knight Hall by the Bookstore. Sign-ups are currently open, and they close at 4 PM tomorrow, so there will be a reminder e-mail tonight. We went on what we talked about last year and ran a lottery for the lockers. We will lottery out 42 of 48 lockers, and the remaining six lockers will be available to students who write a statement about their need (not an essay, maybe about 250 words max). DS is open to discussing a good way to go about going this.

AL – is there going to be a form?

DS – I’m just asking people to e-mail the SBA, like sending in bios.

YM – is this on a per-semester basis?

DS – yes, at the moment.

MA – can you see who is signing up for lockers?
DS – all the sign-ups will be sent to us when it closes. We’re going to try not to touch it at all; Dean Crawford will randomly pick people from amongst the applicants.

MA – just want to see how many signed up.

DS – we’ll know at the next meeting.

Public comment - When can people start putting things in lockers?

DS – results should get back to us tomorrow night, so we can probably distribute them Monday or Tuesday next week, then people need to sign a use agreement. If anyone wants to staff the office to get signatures, that would be wonderful.

AL – what did we decide about locks?

DS – combination locks, that can be changed between semesters. No coin operated. There is a master key on file with the Police, Dean, and SBA.

YM – questions?

BD – soon we will be allowing reservations for SBA office in Knight Hall. We have an office in Starr, but we are renovating the office in Knight Hall, which will be more for student orgs, and this will be the office that can be reserved. If you have any suggestions for how to get this done, let BD know. The Fourth Floor Lounge is open for reservations as well, so send BD an e-mail if you want to request the lounge. All requests have to get approved by Library administration after they are approved by the SBA, so make sure your use is appropriate. We now have a phone line in SBA office, so you can feel free to use it for SBA purposes. Please answer the phone and check the voicemail when you have office hours.

YM – we don’t anticipate a lot of volume on the phone.

DS – please avoid personal calls.

BD – if you have office hours, just check the voicemail and pass the message along to the intended recipient. Office hours will be scheduled as soon as we have schedules from our new reps.

YM – office hours are only two hours per semester, but if you can’t handle this, please come see us. You just have to keep the door open and answer your phone.

BD – your really could just be in there doing homework. For elections, nominations ended tonight at 8:30. We have 12 candidates for 1LD, 5 candidates for 1LE, and an uncontested election for LLM. The LLM rep has been notified. I will be working with
Ricardo to distribute the nominees’ photos and bios, and elections will be Monday and Tuesday, with reps expected to attend our next meeting a week from today.

YM – we have to have back-to-back meetings this week, but after this we will meet every other week. For uncontested elections, the SBA has discretion to not run an election, but we want to codify this.

BD – any questions so far?

AL – likelihood of meeting time not being at 9:30?

BD – probably not going to change, just based on peoples’ availability.

YM – we want to leave meetings open for evening and LLM students, but it’s crucial to conform meetings to representatives’ schedules.

BD – we have a Facebook page, so please join it, everyone is welcome to join. We encourage everyone who takes pictures at events to send them in to us at sba@students.law.uconn.edu and we can post them on the Facebook group.

Public comment – I heard people were campaigning for rep positions on Facebook?

DS – last year we discussed possible guidelines for campaigning for elections, but there are none this year, so Facebook is permissible.

Public comment – how do elections work? How do people vote?

YM – nominations end today, and info gets submitted to IT, who compiles a form online. There will be a link to the law school website with information about the candidates. You can vote for up to four people if you’re a day student, two if you’re evening. Each class votes for their own representatives.

BD – you can only vote for representatives within your own division.

YM – it’s a purely electronic voting system.

DS – and it’s completely anonymous.

DS – passed out a sheet with two amendments to budgeting guidelines. For the first one, we do not permit newsletters or stationary, which would make it really difficult for us to fund groups like Pro Se, and groups like this add to our campus. We want to add an exception for groups whose primary campus is to publish a newsletter on campus. The second amendment is e-board elections for groups. We wanted the SBA to have the final say, in case a group has formed an agenda and has not allowed elections of
their officers. The exception says that as long as a group has elections in accordance with their own bylaws and in the best interest of the student body, they are OK. Any comments?

MA – why don’t we want groups to be able to print?

DS – we’re discouraging printing, not publication; we’re mostly a paperless campus and don’t want costs to go towards paper and printing costs. If the SBA wants to remove this guideline, we can open discussion on it.

MA – there are a lot of groups who do printing, but paperless publishing is a good point.

DS – in the past, the SBA has given some discretion to minimal printing, it’s when groups want to do big and costly print jobs that we can’t permit it.

DS – any comments on the first amendment?

YM – we don’t have copies of the amendment in front of the reps, do we?

DS – they do have a copy. We can either move forward on the first or discuss the second amendment. Any comments?

[No comment]

DW – this is supposed to be more of a discussion, not a monologue.

AP – there are certain circumstances where a group would want to publish things, so maybe we can provide for exceptions like this.

DS – keep in mind that the SBA has the power to amend guidelines at any time, and can also temporarily waive them for any particular purchase. Purchases can come before the SBA for a vote. The Budget Committee is just following these guidelines to create a master budget. If a group wants an exception considered, they can come to SBA.

MA – uncomfortable with the provision; when things come to the Budget Committee, there is a difference between things that do or do not really need to be printed. The provision should be hammered out in the funding board; it discourages groups from taking the extra step to publish events. Example: if PILG wants to do an update on the public interest industry, they should be able to bring this before the funding board and we should not discourage them.

ST – we’re giving Pro Se the right to publish, and we’ll give them money for that right?

DS – yes.
ST – so any other group has to come to the SBA?

DS – the guidelines say that student funds can’t be used to print for organization use. The point of the amendment is to prevent this from applying to groups like Pro Se.

AP – as is, without the amendment, it’s understood that Pro Se, Moot Court Board, Journals, etc can print their stuff. So basically this is binding us to something that may have to be amended and reworked in the future.

BP – agree that a blanket policy may not be the best way to go about this. E-mail use for most groups is more than sufficient, so groups would have to give a compelling reason to print, but at the same time, a blanket policy might not be in the best interest.

YM – what’s the issue with here?

DS – sounds like the provision itself.

YM – wants to clarify what we’re discussing. Should we discuss and vote tonight? Want to make sure people are heard.

ST – so we’re voting to strike the provision?

DS – does anyone want to open a motion to strike the provision?

**Motion to strike provision** – MA
Second – AP
Yes – all but two
No – BP
Abstentions – BH
**Motion Passes**

DS – so no need to vote on exception, but we still have the e-board amendment. If anyone has any comments, please feel free, otherwise we can vote.

YM – questions?

**Motion to vote** – AL
Second – BP
Yes – all
Not – none
Abstentions – none
**Motion Passes**
YM – thanks to the e-board for the hard work. There’s a lot going on behind the scenes. Thanks to those of you who turned in Attorney General questions.

We are happy to open the Library Lounge and had a little celebration already. There will be Direct TV in there soon. It’s an exciting space to have for the student body. We will also have a Terms of Use Agreement with the Library to clarify who owns the property and how the space will be used. We will be dealing with questions about reservations as we go along.

DW – the space is pretty bare. Decorations are our prerogative subject to library approval, so if you have any ideas for decorating, let us know.

DS – last spring, SBA did approve $500 for decorations, all we need is volunteers.

YM – one committee that we have been thinking of forming is an evening division/LLM committee, to attend to their needs a little more. This comes with the caveat that the divisions do have different needs, so there can be subcommittees or different events, but it didn’t make sense to do two committees. We will test it out this year. Questions?

[no comment]

YM – if students have a concern, it can filter through this committee. Volunteers?

[MA, BP, DC, JK volunteer]

YM – thanks to volunteers! We also want to appoint chairs for each committee so there is a point of contact. YM will ask for volunteers as we go along.

There have been several administrative changes; you may have seen Dean Paul’s e-mail about them. Professor Schmeiser is now Dean of Student Life, and will help student groups think conceptually of larger events. We will be in more contact with her now, so feel free to reach out to her in addition to Dr. Brown. Professor McLean is now Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

ST – Dean McLean got rid of a committee, why?

YM – faculty committees change year to year, so it’s not necessarily that she removed the committee, but the faculty decided not to continue it.

ST – it was the institutional reputation committee.

YM – this type of thing happens. If the students really want this committee, YM will convey this message to Dean McLean. It’s unfortunate that we lose committees but it happens.
Public comment – wants to know why Dean Schmeiser’s position was created.

YM – this was a growing need from the student body. Her role hasn’t been fully determined yet but we’ll get a better sense of it as we go along.

ABA representation at UConn Law – we don’t have very good representation. The ABA is the governing body for judges and practitioners. It’s important for us to get involved and get more information from them. Each law school gets a vote from the SBA president and the ABA rep, and we don’t have an ABA rep, so we are losing a vote. Out of 200 law schools, only 35 have no ABA rep, which indicates that we are missing critical information about scholarships, awards, and opportunities. We want to try a provisional appointment of an ABA representative. We have a bunch of information for the rep to hand out, and they can help us get closer to the SBA. An e-mail will go out tonight asking people to volunteer for the position. For now, they would not be a voting member of the SBA based on our constitutional provisions, but this could be changed in the future.

DS – it’s not that we can’t have the ABA member be an SBA member, but we need 2/3 of total students at the law school to vote.

YM – we will ask that the rep attend SBA meetings and disseminate information. Questions? If you can think of someone

MA – is there a time commitment outside law school?

YM – they don’t have to go to the assemblies or ABA meetings, they are optional. It would be good to go and figure out what’s going on with other schools though. The ABA does provide funding for the rep to attend too, which is nice. There is a membership rewards incentive too.

Met with Diversity Committee chairs, who will come in next week to talk about their final appointment.

Will send out a President’s Report via e-mail once or twice a semester, to let the student body know what we’re up to and give SBA credit for what you’re all doing. We don’t really have another venue to let people know what we’re doing other than e-mail.

For next week, we want to do a group picture to go in the SBA office. Everyone will take a picture in Lib 202, and it will be in the SBA office, maybe for a long time. We will also talk about Diversity and other committees.

DS – future meetings won’t be this compact or one-sided.
Motion to adjourn meeting – AL
Second – ST
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes
University of Connecticut School of Law
Student Bar Association (SBA) Meeting
09 15 2010, 9:30 PM, Library 202

Attendance (absences in strikeouts):

Executive Board:
Yamuna Menon, YM, President
DeVaughn Ward, DW, Vice President
Bethany DiMarzio, BD, Secretary
David Shufrin, DS, Treasurer

Class Representatives:
1L Day - Francisco Russo, FR
1L Day - Brynn Cullen, BC
1L Day - Peter Kim, PK
1L Day - Patricia Pernes, PP
1L Evening - Franklin Perry, FP
1L Evening - Alex Wing, AW
2L Day - Blake Holler, BH
2L Day - Sebastian Tornatore, ST
2L Day - Allison Pannozzo, AP
2L Day - Mike Barres, MB
3L Day - Zohaib "Z" Rasheed, ZR
3L Day - Angie Lachman, AL
3L Day - Jeff Chase, JC
3L Day - Jon Schaefer, JS
LLM – Yousef Abdul Latif, YL
Upperclass Evening - Marco Allocca, MA
Upperclass Evening - Dan Csuka, DC
Upperclass Evening - Jeff Kanca, JK
Upperclass Evening - BJ Pivonka, BP

Also in Attendance:
Diversity Committee
YM – call to order 9:33 PM.

Motion to begin meeting – MA
Second – ST
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none

Motion Passes

YM – welcome to the first SBA meeting of the semester with a full SBA, and welcome to new reps! We also have the diversity committee here as guests. As the first order of business, is there any public comment? This is an opportunity for anyone to speak.

JS – has an idea. There is a big tree outside – we had the idea of putting a bench around it. It would be a nice idea to let people sit outside. It’s the tree closer to Starr Hall with lots of shade.

YM – we’ll be in touch with facilities and talk about it.

YM – we are passing around a tentative calendar for the year. It’s tentative, but gives you a sense what we’re thinking for meetings.

Introductions:

YM – SBA President

DW – SBA Vice President, Social Chair

DS – Treasurer, Budget Committee

BD – Secretary

AL – 3LD

JS – 3LD

DC – 3LE

Roopa Modha – 1LE (Diversity Committee nominee)

Heidi Cha – 3LD, DC co-chair

Ingrid Festin – 2LD, DC
Lisa Rodriguez – 3LD, DC co-chair

YL – LLM rep

Mallory Goodwin – 1LE, Faculty committee

AW – 1LE

PK – 1LD

FP – 1LE

PP – 1LD

BC – 1LD

FR – 1LD

AP – 2LD

MA – 2LE

BH – 2LD

ST – 2LD

BP – 3LE

JC – 3LD

YM – administers New Rep’s Oath.

YM – no approval of minutes this week. SBA Diversity committee is here to introduce themselves, talk about their goals and propose their 1L appointment.

Lisa Rodriguez – SBA Diversity Committee co-chair. Goals for the year are to be out there, have a presence on campus, have our first open meeting ever, open up the process of accepting new members. Activities planned: a lunch and learn, where we are hoping to get all student leaders to come together and start planning for diversity week in the spring. Diversity week is kind of like Metanoia; we will plan events every day of the week with groups that touch on diversity; not just minorities or affinities, but also intellectual, religious, life choice diversity, etc.
Heidi Cha – Diversity collaboration lunch is in hopes to launch a discussion going into diversity week. Hope to get support for a large-scale event. Diversity week is done in many law schools and we hope to mirror it here.

Lisa Rodriguez – there are 7 committee members total. Amanda Johnson, Rebecca Arnold, and Drew Schaeffer are sorry they can’t be here tonight. Also, we are having part 2 of a film series that we started last year.

Heidi Cha – 9/24 (Friday) is the date of the film series. About Kuntsler, a controversial figure in constitutional law, who has been involved in a lot of constitutional cases.

Lisa Rodriguez – he’s been doing monumental, cutting edge cases, such as negotiating hostage situations in prisons. Movie is from the perspective of his two daughters. The movie has ethical questions and work-life balance issues.

Heidi Cha – the faculty is involved with this effort and are buying us beer. They look forward to getting people engaged, so 1L reps, mention it to your friends. We had a great turnout for our last film, and want to continue that. 9/24, Friday, 6:30 PM.

Lisa Rodriguez – free food, beer, cappuccino, popcorn.

Heidi Cha – film shown in Davis, then reception in Starr Hall Reading Room.

Lisa Rodriguez – there will be a post-discussion, but it won’t be boring.

Heidi Cha – and the faculty will be providing raffle prizes with 1L professors.

Lisa Rodriguez – professors invest a lot and donate a lot of money, and they really want to spend time with students. Tomorrow is our first open meeting ever, at 12:30, Chase 110, food provided. We will open up our committees to the student body, so you don’t have to be a DC member and can still help organize events. We also have a diversity action plan that we’re trying to get involved in. We want to hold the campus responsible for meeting diversity quotas, for faculty and students. The plan was created three years ago but then died, and now nobody holds the faculty responsible for benchmarks. We want to try to bring it back.

Lisa Rodriguez – this year, we had an open application process. Every student submitted an essay, the committee read each one and decided who to recommend as a member.

YM – SBA Diversity Committee has a structured autonomy separate from SBA. SBA members can’t be on DC, and this was done purposely. The committee was created in 2007 as a result of diversity concerns on campus. They have six members and need a seventh. They nominate within the committee and then present the nominee to SBA.
DS – SBA reps can go to meetings, but cannot officially be on DC.

Lisa Rodriguez – bylaws are strict as to what makes up the committee. Must have representatives from each year, day and evening, affinity minorities, intellectual, religious. We’re thinking about amending our bylaws, because we had so many qualified applicants, we don’t want to be limited. Amendments have to be approved by SBA majority.

Lisa Rodriguez – our newest member, pending approval, is Roopa Modha.

Roopa Modha – 1LE student. Has already talked to some people who feel discriminated against, not necessarily by students, but by Hartford residents. Wants to take an active role in promoting diversity. Wants to create a blog where students can share their feelings, or ask for help if they feel they’re being discriminated against.

YM – any SBA questions for the nominee?

DW – what undergrad did you attend?

Roopa Modha – Brandeis, and I have an associate’s degree in computer programming.

YM – anyone else?

AL – any former experience with diversity?

Roopa Modha – at Brandeis, was in diverse clubs – Indian film club, Russian club, African American students club, Mexican students club. Wanted to get to know other perspectives. In eastern MA, was one of only two Indian families in the town. At Brandeis, was exposed to Jewish community.

YM – anyone else?

[Diversity Committee exits]
[none]

YM – now we need a motion to accept Roopa Modha as a DC nominee.

**DW – motion to accept Roopa Modha as SBA Diversity Committee nominee**

ST – second

YM – discussion?

    **ST – motion to close minutes**

    AL – second

    Yes – all

    Opposed – none
Abstentions – none

Motion passes

Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none

Motion passes

[Diversity Committee enters]

YM – Congratulations to Roopa! Please go to the DC meeting tomorrow!

YM – 1LD students, we usually have 24 members, but this semester Z Rasheed is in DC. He is cc’ed on all SBA correspondence and we may Skype him in on some meetings.

DS – Treasurer’s report: current account balances are on the PowerPoint.

Current Account Balance:

- As of 9/8/2010:
  - Checking: $37,395.45
    - Outstanding checks: $3208.45
    - Net Balance: $34,187
  - Savings: $40,129.93

2010 Expected Income

- Total J.D. students enrolled: ~671
- Total LLM Insurance Students: ~37
- Total International LLM Students: ~21
- Total Students Enrolled: ~729

- Student Activity Fee: $82
- Expected Annual Operating Budget: $119,556
  - Received Thus Far: $14,516
  - Outstanding: $105,040

- NUMBERS ARE APPROXIMATE!
Discretionary Allocations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Date of Event</th>
<th>Chk #</th>
<th>Chk Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Library 4th floor lounge grand opening - Coffee, Soda, &amp; Snacks</td>
<td>SBA Facilities Comm.</td>
<td>75.29</td>
<td>Bethany DiMarzio</td>
<td>8/30/2010</td>
<td>6715</td>
<td>8/30/2010</td>
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<td>Library 4th floor lounge grand opening - Cups</td>
<td>SBA Facilities Comm.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>David Shufrin</td>
<td>8/30/2010</td>
<td>6714</td>
<td>8/30/2010</td>
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<td>SBA E-Board Plaque update</td>
<td>SBA Operations</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>Yam Menon</td>
<td>8/3/2010</td>
<td>6711</td>
<td>8/16/2010</td>
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<td>Food for 1L Orientation Wood-n-tap event</td>
<td>SBA Social</td>
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<td>Wood-N-Tap</td>
<td>8/26/2010</td>
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<td>8/25/2010</td>
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<td>Direct TV service</td>
<td>SBA Operations</td>
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<td>Direct TV</td>
<td>8/16/2010</td>
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<td>8/16/2010</td>
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<td>Social Justice Film night - spring '10 - contribution to food</td>
<td>SBA Co-op</td>
<td>179.46</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>4/8/2010</td>
<td>6717</td>
<td>9/1/2010</td>
</tr>
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<td>Sports Equipment for Softball, donated to library</td>
<td>CILJ</td>
<td>51.98</td>
<td>Mike Yedinak</td>
<td>8/24/2010</td>
<td>6720</td>
<td>9/1/2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Cream for Student org Fair</td>
<td>SBA Co-op</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>9/2/2010</td>
<td>6718</td>
<td>9/2/2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DS – We do have a good amount of money save up, but we also have a few outstanding checks. The student body size seems to have increased, but nobody seems to know how many students we actually have. We don’t get all the budget money up front, but it trickles in through the semester. We work around the operating budget. Every meeting DS must announce discretionary purchases. Anything over $500 must be voted on by the SBA. PowerPoint shows discretionary purchases. Any questions on any item?

[no questions]

DS – budget process is underway. Budgets are due this Friday from the student groups, we already have four or five. After the meeting, we will talk briefly about the budget committee. Next meeting, we will have a budget proposal prepared to vote on. This year, we want to increase transparency by sending the proposed budget to all students, so students can bring issues to the SBA. Take a look at the proposed budget when it is prepared, because it touches everything we do. Feel free to argue over budgeted items (within reason); don’t just vote yes. Today’s PowerPoint will be posted on TWEN.

DS – last year, we discussed ordering pizza for SBA budget committee meetings. These are public meetings, all students will be noticed, everyone can come, even the Secretary of State knows about it, so it’s very public. The meeting is open, even though only SBA Budget Committee members can vote. DS doesn’t feel comfortable using discretionary funds for his own committee, even though they have an all-day Friday meeting from probably 10 AM – 8 PM. It will probably be $20-30.

**DS – motion to provide budget committee $30 for lunch on 9/24**

BC – second
DS – discussion?
  o YM – this is an important service to the SBA, so you could argue that it’s for a committee, but it’s a way to aid people through 10-11 hour deliberations.
  o BH – would this set the precedent to allow other committees to get lunches for their meetings?
  o MA – this is a significantly distinguishable group. On a time requirement alone, we should provide food.
  o DS – budget committee is also meeting three days earlier that week, and each day, it’s up to six hours of meetings. We’re only asking for pizza for one day.
  o YM – any opposed to close discussion?
  o [no opposition]
  o YM – anyone opposed to a hand vote?
  o [no opposition]

Yes – all but four
No – none
Abs – JC, MA, DS, YM

**Motion passes**

JS – for people on budget committee, who are also proposing for student groups, what happens? Do they get a say in forming the budget for their own group?

DS – we suggest that they abstain when their group’s budget is being discussed. They are free to discuss, and that’s helpful, but for voting, we ask that they abstain.

YM – this isn’t codified, and we may look to do so in the future.

YM – needs to see 1L and LLM reps after meeting, and stay for picture after the meeting.

DW – job is to spend the money as social chair. Because of the way the schedule works out, DW needs money before DS can budget it, since we won’t have a budget until the first week of October. Would like to move Fall Ball to Homecoming weekend, which is the first weekend of October, and needs money to do so. Will lay out the numbers and ask for your ideas.

Fall Ball at Marriott Downtown (pre-ticket sales): $8,500 for food and venue for 200 people, not tax or gratuity. We will also need $600 bus, $400 DJ, $100 insurance, $65 to print tickets (these are liberal estimates). For context, last year, Fall Ball was $5,500 venue, $600 bus, $400 DJ, $62 insurance, $65 print tickets. With ticket sales, the cost this year should go down to $4,750.
DS – last year, we brought in $1,600, from 100 tickets sold. The year before, we did $3,000, from 200 tickets sold. The number of tickets sold depends a lot on venue.

DW – last year, a lot of social events got crammed to the end of the year, like the PILG Auction, Fall Ball, Midnight Breakfast and Halloween Party. We want to move Fall Ball up this year to accommodate more events, and it’s cool to celebrate homecoming.

BH – last year, a bunch of people (about 175) showed up even though we only sold 100 tickets, so there was some shoddy ticket-gathering going on. So people will definitely come, it’s just a matter of charging them for tickets.

DW – the more people that come, the lower the price per person. It’s buffet style, not a sit-down dinner. There will be make-your-own-nachos, chicken wing station, three pasta stations, and turkey carving.

AL – no dinner last year helps explain the price increase.

DW – ticket price is flexible. $15 seems like a great price point, but it’s open for discussion.

AP – what about selling a ticket for the Homecoming game and fall ball for less?

DW – about the game; we want to do a tailgate and have a bus of students there. The ticket price for the game is max $20, and we should get 50 tickets, so we would need $1000 for tickets, $600 for bus, $1000 for food, $100 for insurance (liberal estimates). This would be the same day as Fall Ball, but earlier in the day. The more football tickets we order, the lower the ticket price becomes. Right now, we only need funding for football tickets.

AL – is there any way we can not do dinner at Fall Ball?

DW – yes, but not at the same venue. The Marriott requires a minimum food purchase to be there, and they actually lowered the minimum purchase for us, which means we have to spend the money on dinner.

JC – no matter how many people go it’s $8500?

DW – yes.

JC – so that’s not based on an attendance limit? They won’t charge us more if more people show up?

DW – no, we can have any number of people show up, and the more people who go, the price per person goes down.
MA – does price include how much food they provide per person? How many people will they feed? If food runs out, will they supply more for the same price?

DW – the price is based on 250 people. If 400 people show up, food running out won’t be a problem.

MA – but would it be a greater food charge if the 400 people show up?

DW – the price is based on 250 people attending, and I’m not sure about this, but it’s a good thing to look into.

DS – we can tell them to stop putting out food at a certain point.

MA – do we know how this will work out? Will they stop serving at some point?

AP – it’s all going to even out, because if people are buying tickets, we won’t be paying that much over.

DW – the price is inflated, so if more people show up, the price of food goes down. The price technically covers up to 400 guests.

YL – are we providing snacks and dinner? Can we take off appetizers? Would the cost come down?

DW – if the cost is too much we can move the venue, but we can’t lower the price for this venue, because we’re already below the $22,000 typical food and beverage minimum. We can ask to move the food minimum purchase down since we will also be buying alcohol.

YL – what other options regarding change of venue?

DW – change of venue is change of date. We’re too close to get another formal venue now.

FR – we can incentivize ticket sales if needed.

DW – yes, we can do that; for example, sell tickets for a lower price in advance and a little more at the door.

BC – have you gotten feedback from other students about the date, since it is the same as Homecoming?

DW – the consensus is that it’s a good date.
BC – 1Ls are worried about making it to both the football and Fall Ball events, if they do want to go to both.

DW – the tailgate is only for 50 people, so only those people can go to the game. The people who go to the game would be back at school by 6 and the event at the Marriott starts at 9.

AW – is the bus cost set? If the venue is further away it might be more expensive.

DW – right, it could change. The bus is based on last year’s cost, at the Hartford Club, which is close to where we had Fall Ball last year. We’re not locked in as far as the bus, but moving the venue changes the date.

AL – as far as people showing up and having enough food, we’re selling tickets in advance, so we can predict how much food we will need anyway.

DW – we sold 250 tickets for Spring Fling, if that’s a helpful indicator.

AL – even if we oversell, we can renegotiate food costs.

PK – don’t we want to sell short, so we can sell at a higher price?

AP – no, because we want to keep it open to whole student body.

FP – how late does venue run?

DW – it’s a private hotel, but we have to end the event at 12, school policy. The bar has to be cut out and the event officially ends at 12. We can hypothetically go till the venue closes.

ST – Marriott tickets for events like this are usually way more expensive, so if we can get the venue at this price, we’re doing a service to the student body.

**DW – motion to approve funding for Fall Ball and Homecoming tickets, $9,500 for both events.**

BP – second

Yes – all

No – none

Abs – none

_Motion passes_

DW – tell your friends, we have tickets for football games on sale. Last week we only sold two out of four tickets available. We lose money if tickets don’t sell!
ST – we should get an e-mail out about Fall Ball ASAP.

DW – I’m on it, now that we have funding. Also, the basketball lottery starts next week. We can’t purchase group blocks if tickets, since the lottery is administered by UConn Storrs. Tell your friends to participate in the lottery. Even if they don’t want the tickets, someone on campus will buy them.

BD – I need information from all new representatives: your preferred e-mail address, your work and class schedule so I can assign office hours (two hours a semester, you just have to sit and staff the office), and a 100-word bio for the SBA website. Look at the website if you need an example, it should be written in the third person. Please e-mail these items to sba@students.uconn.edu as soon as possible, but no later than Friday. On the whiteboard are Robert’s Rules of Order, and we are going to start following them like we are supposed to. I will have a handout on how to make a motion available for our next meeting.

YM – wanted to open up the process of faculty committee appointments, so we opened it up to the whole school. Hasn’t gotten any responses for ABA rep, so recommendations are welcome; it’s a new and important position. Will talk to 1Ls after the meeting, so please stay for a few minutes. Committee Chairs are: DS budget committee, JK campus safety until ZR is back in the spring, ST facilities, MA constitution and bylaws, DC evening and LLM, AL pro bono and public interest, BD elections, LR and HC diversity, DW social. If you have questions about a committee, refer to those folks.

Trying out a President’s roundtable Tuesday at 5 PM, there will be one per semester. Wants to foster collaboration and disseminate information, and allow for direct SBA contact. If you think YM should bring anything to presidents, let her know.

Next week: next meeting we want to deliberate over the budget, and have committee updates. Right now, the budget committee is meeting on Friday the 24th to develop the budget. The constitution requires five school days posting require to us passing the budget, which puts our SBA meeting to Thursday. The alternative to moving our meeting on Thursday is meeting the first Monday in October, which is after Fall Ball. Thoughts?

ST – would it be at 9:30 PM?

YM – 9:30 Thursday the 30th.

BD – we have thought about setting maximum discussion times for each item on the budget; it can be however long we want.

YM – thoughts about which meeting date we should use?
BD – sooner is better.

YM – we will schedule the SBA meeting for Thursday, 9/30.

DS – we need to move for more money over the $9,500 that we did before (calculation error).

DW – we need an additional $4,865 for Fall Ball, Homecoming tailgate, and Halloween venue deposit, for a total of $14,365 for fall social events. This is the entire fall budget. Last year, the total budget was $15,013.07 for fall social events.

**DS – motion to approve additional $4,865 for fall social events**

BH – second

- DS – the numbers are not equal. A lot of events we did last year are not included in the $14,365. This is just for Halloween deposit, tailgate, and Fall Ball.
- JC – what’s the difference for Halloween from last year?
- DW – last year we spent $560 on decorations, venue was $1760, insurance was $500, so total was around $3000. This year, it will cost about $4000, but is a way nicer venue.
- PK – can we have a plus or minus clause?
- DW – this amount covers everything until I request more money from the SBA. This is what I need as an advance.
- DS – how do people feel about ticket prices to $25 at the door, $20 advance for fall ball?
- AL – dislikes raising ticket prices.
- DW – we can debate ticket prices once we get the money to do this.
- YM – anyone opposed to closing discussion?
- [no opposition]
- YM – anyone opposed to a hand vote?
- [no opposition]

Yes – all but one
No – none
Abs – YM

**Motion passes**

**Motion to adjourn meeting** – BP
Second – AL
Yes – all
No – none
Absentions – none

**Motion passes**
Student Bar Association (SBA) Meeting
09 30 2010, 9:30 PM, Library 202

Attendance (absences in strikeouts):

Executive Board:
Yamuna Menon, YM, President
DeVaughn Ward, DW, Vice President
Bethany DiMarzio, BD, Secretary
David Shufrin, DS, Treasurer

Class Representatives:
1L Day - Francisco Russo, FR
1L Day - Brynn Cullen, BC
1L Day - Peter Kim, PK
1L Day - Patricia Pernes, PP
1L Evening - Franklin Perry, FP
1L Evening - Alex Wing, AW
2L Day - Blake Holler, BH
2L Day - Sebastian Tornatore, ST
2L Day - Allison Pannozzo, AP
2L Day - Mike Barrese, MB
3L Day - Zohaib "Z" Rasheed, ZR
3L Day - Angie Lachhman, AL
3L Day - Jeff Chase, JC
3L Day - Jon Schaefer, JS
LLM – Yousef Abdul Latif, YL
Upperclass Evening - Marco Allocca, MA
Upperclass Evening - Dan Csuka, DC
Upperclass Evening - Jeff Kanca, JK
Upperclass Evening - BJ Pivonka, BP

Also in Attendance:
ABA Representative – Matt Zagaja, MZ
Various student organization representatives
YM – call to order 9:33 PM.

Motion to begin meeting – YM
Second – ST
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion Passes

YM: any non-budget related public comment?

MA: this kind of relates to the budget, but MA feels that all groups should be able to get funding for events regardless of whether they are scheduled in conflict with another event.

[no further comment]

YM: the reason Marco just made that statement is because he will be acting as parliamentarian for this meeting to help run debate over the budget better.

Motion to have Marco act as Parliamentarian for this meeting – YM
Second – BJ
Yes – all but one
No – none
Abstentions – 1
Motion Passes

BD: meeting minutes from 9/8 and 9/15 were e-mailed out. Any questions?

AP: can you put actual budget figures in the minutes for 9/15? They say the budget is on a slide show, but the figures aren’t in the minutes.

BD: the slides go on TWEN, but I can put them in the minutes as well.

Motion to accept 9/8 minutes – BD
Second – AP
Yes – all but one
No – none
Abstentions – 1
Motion Passes

BD: will update 9/15 minutes to reflect exact budget figures.
YM: proud to announce that our ABA rep, Matt, is here tonight *applause*. He will serve a critical function for the school and the SBA.

MZ: will try to be on campus as much as possible. Wants to try to get people to join the ABA. It costs $25/year, $60/3 years. For 3Ls, it’s important to note that 11/30 is the deadline to get a BarBri scholarship from the ABA. Kaplan also has a discount with them as well, so you can easily make your registration fee back after joining. MZ will be in touch with you regarding ABA opportunities, but feel free to contact him with questions.

YM: Matt will be an ex-officio SBA member. He won’t vote, but will be an SBA member in all other respects.

DW: Fall Ball is Saturday October 2 at 8 PM, buses leave at 7:45. So far we sold 90 tickets, for $10 each, and will also sell at the door. Social Committee, we need volunteers for the event, and we will purchase your ticket if you help out.

YM: skipping over Dave for now.

BD: did my report via handout, so look at the sheets I gave you. For office hours, if you can’t make your shift as assigned, switch with another rep and e-mail me to confirm your switch.

YM: we are trying to reserve as much time as we need for budget committee, so we will turn it over to DS for treasurer’s report.

DS: not a lot of different numbers than last week. Total income this year is $113,488, confirmed with the registrar. The budget is in front of reps. There are a few changes from the past budget that was posted: HLIG had a transposition error, and the Red Cross event didn’t get onto the budget, so $115 was added. PILG printing expenses got added. Football tickets that have already been purchased were added to social committee. ACLU and LLSA movie screening was increased due to confusion over the actual price. Moot Court Board added one general body meeting to make it more fair in comparison with other groups, and their budget was restructured. CSLS has been given $362 from TLS for a conflicting event that they decided to do together; CSLS will do it this semester, TLS will do it in the spring. Any questions about those changes can be raised soon.

DS: thank you to the budget committee for spending over 40 hours last week on the budget. They tried to create the budget in the fairest way possible and avoiding merit-based discussions. The budget committee traditionally discusses room reservations, timing of events, and scheduling. Usually, the administration prevents conflicting events, but this year, we have had problems with room reservations. Due to this, and the administration’s request to avoid audience fatigue, the committee was careful to assess how many people would actually attend each event.
DS: we budgeted for a total of $77,623.59. We have $113,000 income over the year, and we budget 60% of this in the fall, 40% in the spring, since groups are more active in the fall. Since we have excess funds carried over from the past, and because we typically get excess funds back from everything not being spent, we over-budgeted by about $13,000 or 20%. We then removed 5% to reserve for the supplemental process. The budget goal therefore was $77,675.

YM: we have a tentative list of student groups that need to be discussed; speak up if there is another group that needs to be discussed: APALSA, CPIIJ, CSLS, ILS, LELS, Mock Trial Society, Moot Court Board, PILG, Pro Se, SALDF, SALSA, SBA Diversity Committee, SBA Social Committee, WLSA. Any group not on here that needs to be discussed?

Amira Abed: CJIL, just a brief question.

YM: because Marco will be acting as parliamentarian, he has been asked to abstain from voting. We have 20 SBA voting members in attendance tonight.

AP: is e-board allowed to vote?

YM: yes.

MA: position tonight is to manage the flow of the meeting, which is why he is abstaining.

AP: can we discuss the groups that have people here to speak on behalf of their group first?

MA: are there any groups that just have questions, and are not here to debate?

[CILJ and ILS members raise hands]

MA: we will discuss those groups first, and then if you feel like you want to contest your budget, we will discuss your budget afterwards.

Chris de Ocejo: the ILS needs to converse with Moot Court Board to figure out who will be paying for the Jessup ICC Moot Court competitions. How are we going to split up who gets to send competitors?

DS: you need to discuss this with MCB, so unless there is any objection, we ask that you discuss it directly with them.

BH: is the treasurer for MCB; ILS should discuss this with Mike Chase.
MA: can this be settled outside SBA?

[general assent]

Amira Abed: speaking for CJIL; thought each journal would get only $500 from SBA, but the budget says some journals got more. Can you clarify this misunderstanding?

DS: the budget guidelines say journals are allowed $250 for orientation and $250 per proof day. There are journals holding more than one proof day, so they will receive more than $500. There is no upwards cap; the budget committee uses its discretion if they think there are too many proof days (although there is really no reason for a journal to hold extra proof days). You can get over $500, it just depends on what each journal is doing.

Amira: what about funding not proof day related?

DS: CPILJ in particular has no outside funding, and is funded through SBA. They are an exception for their administrative expenses.

JS: the other journals asked for things that are not proof day and gotten them; can CJIL ask for things not proof day related as well?

DS: to an extent, yes. There are caps. Every journal was approached about bluebooks, and the journals said they didn’t need them. Outside that, administrative expenses may be funded.

MA: any other questions?

[none]

MA: we have a list of groups that want to discuss their budget. These groups are either contesting a budget or their budget. We will go down the list in alphabetical order, which is the fairest way to do it. At the beginning of the debate, we will move to separate the budget. We will then go through each budget that was separated by line. We will ask one person from each group to make a two-minute argument as to why they think their funding got cut or should be enhanced.

MB: what if people are contesting a budget that’s not theirs?

MA: if you are not contesting your own budget, you don’t have to say why you should get your budget. After the two minutes are up, if you’re not an SBA rep, you can’t participate in the debate. If you are an SBA rep, and you are going to make a presentation, you can participate in debate in your capacity as an SBA representative. If you are representing a group, you can still have questions addressed towards you. We
will have a debate session, and you can pose questions to non-SBA reps. If you’re not a rep, stick to answering the question, and don’t go into debate on any issues. During debate, we don’t want people yelling at each other. We will call on people first come, first served. Raise your hand if you want to be heard on a particular group, and you will be put on a speaker’s list. If during someone else’s speech you want to say something, raise your hand and we will get to you. Limit your debate time to two minutes. When we’re debating the budget, remember, this is the actual budget being proposed to you tonight. The question before you is do we want to give the allotted money, not do we want to give them more or less. If you want to talk about giving more or less money, you have to move to amend the question as such, and then we vote on the motion. If you want to move to a vote, you can.

Erica McKenzie: there are several of us here from one group, can we all speak?

MA: yes, but your group doesn’t get more time.

Erica: if you represent more than one group, can one group yield their time to another?

MA: yes, you can yield your time to whomever you want. Once debate starts, everything has to go through an SBA rep. Questions?

**Motion to separate the budget and suspend the rules – PK**

Second – FP
Yes – all but one
No – none
Abs – 1

**Motion passes**

MA: ILS and CJIL, are we good?

*[general assent]*

**Motion to separate the following groups from the SBA budget – MA**

APALSA
CPILJ
CSLS
LELS
Mock Trial Society
Moot Court Board
PILG
Pro Se
SALDF
SALSA
SBA Diversity Committee
SBA Social Committee
WLSA
Second – ST
Yes – all but one
No – none
Abs – 1
Motion passes

MA: the question before the SBA is now the $853.93 for APALSA. Anyone want to speak? Anyone here to contest the budget?

[no speakers]

MA: the question is now CPILJ allotment at $2,492.87. Anyone want to speak?

[no speakers]

MA: the question is now the CSLS (Corporate and Securities Law Society) allotment of $1,452.87.

ST: question on CSLS, was the issue the corporate raw event? Seems like it’s been fixed.

DS: seems like it. We came to an agreement earlier today and resolved the issue.

[no further speakers]

MA: the question is now LELS (Labor and Employment Law Society) allotment of $1,222.02.

Tommy Ziehnert: LELS member and President. Had requested $1,853 for networking event and only got about half of that. Wondering how that figure came about.

DS: are you talking about the hot topics dinner?

Tommy: yes.

DS: budget committee thought that the proposed price per person ($21) was too high and turnout of 75 people was unrealistic. Due to budget constraints, we allocated $17 per person and budgeted for 50 people to show up. We didn’t think the copies were necessary for a successful event, but they can be made on the SBA printer in the office if you really want them.

Tommy: we got the catering quote through Krause, and they quoted $22 per person. LELS is asking for more funds because they expect a larger turnout for the event.
MA: the question is still the current allotment. Does anyone have further questions?

MB: you want extra money for extra people?

Tommy: LELS still wants to go with catering for $22/person, and thinks more than 50 people will come, based on interest at the LELS meeting.

AP: what’s the event?

Tommy: networking event for LELS, we will bring in practitioners and speaker; it’s like a networking dinner.

AL: how many members are in the group?

Tommy: there were 20 people at the general body meeting, but a few people couldn’t make it, so there will be about 25 members from LELS, and people from career services, and practicing attorneys (maybe about 10). Will also open it up to the community; last year about 10 non-LELS people came.

ST: how many people came last year?

YM: was in attendance; rough estimate was about 40.

ST: so where did 75 come from?

Tommy: it was arbitrary at first. We are not sure how many people will show up, but we think non-LELS people will want to come.

BP: was there last year, and we filled up 10-12 tables, so it was probably over 50 people total last year.

MA: any other questions?

DS: last year’s cost for this event was $260.

Tommy: any idea who the caterer was?

DS: I can check and we can talk about it.

MZ: curious where $17 per person figure came from. Can we actually find this rate from a preferred vendor?
DS: Krause does different levels of catering, starting at $15 per person, depending on type and quality of food.

MA: anything else?

[none]

**Motion to vote on current allotment of $1,222.02 – AL**
Second – PK
All in favor of current allotment – 12
Opposed – 7
Abstentions – 1
Motion passes; budget approved

MA: question becomes Mock Trial Society’s allotment of $7,318.92. Anyone contesting?

AP: question, what costs $3,400 for Davis?

MB: we’re trying to make Davis more like the Moot Court Board dinner, so we will have it catered for 100 people. We’re having it catered by Krause, with three or four judges. Practitioners will be invited, including Davis’ firm. Everyone who competes has to be there. This is our only event on campus. Last year we did sandwich platters, but we’re trying to upgrade since we have good judges.

JS: how many people will come?

MB: we’re filling Davis, so 100 people.

JS: so $25/person?

MB: right. We have 22 teams, so 44 competitors, plus judges and the Mock Trial Society – we have at least 70 people right off the bat.

ST: question about budget committee. How come Labor and Employment budget was cut down and MTS stayed the same?

DS: the decision was based on the caliber of guests expected to attend. Here we have high-level judges, and we want to put our best face forward.

DW: what time is the event?

MB: dinner is at 5:30 PM, and the argument is at 6:30 PM.

DW: have you gotten confirmation from judges?
MB: we’ve had actual judges there every year so far. We have Miller and Sheldon confirmed so far this year.

AP: what was the allocation from Moot Court Board for Loiselle dinner last year?

DS: for Hastie, SBA allocated $1,000, for Loiselle, there was $1,045. Keep in mind that MTS has no outside funds, and MCB gets $11,000 in outside funds yearly.

AP: understands that judges are important, but here, we’re saying the attorneys and judges going to MTS are more important than Tommy’s attorneys attending the LELS event.

JS: these judges have come in past years and ate sandwiches?

MB: yes.

DW: yields his time to Cody Guarnieri.

Cody: question to Moot Court Board treasurer about how much non-SBA funding was used for Moot Court competitions.

BH: doesn’t know how much was used, but can find this out. Roughly $2,000 - $2,200.

MA: any further debate?

ST: there are different levels of menu options, is there an intermediate option? I realize there are esteemed judges, but does it have to be $25/plate?

MB: can Marco answer this?

MA: discloses that he is in charge of getting quotes from Krause, so MA will answer if it’s OK.

DW: doesn’t feel comfortable having Marco answer questions.

MB: we delegated the responsibility of obtaining quotes to Marco. There may be lesser options, but at this point, we can’t be sure without hearing from Marco. $25 is less than Truffles.

BD: the $25 per person also includes fees and gratuity.

DW: so is there a cheaper option?
MB: not sure, because Marco got the quotes. We got quotes from Truffles and Krause, but Krause was cheaper, so we went with them.

DW: can someone explain the Capitol City Challenge?

MB: it’s a Mock Trial competition in Washington DC.

ST: not sure what procedure is to vote on this. Knows we have to vote up or down.

MA: the current question is whether or not to accept the current allotment. If you want to change it, you have to move to change the amount.

ST: would motion to table the vote until we can look at other price point options. If $17 was enough per LELS, maybe we can talk about an option in-between.

BD: the food is different this year than in previous years, because members of the administration suggested that we needed to have a nicer dinner since we have esteemed guests.

YM: reminder that we have limited time.

MB: defers time to Cody Guarnieri.

Cody: in Davis, not only do we have a lot of people coming, but it’s happening right away. To drop quote prices now would be a serious problem for the competition. It’s next week.

PP: a lot of 1Ls are doing Davis, and the scale of the event has generated a lot of attention among the 1L class.

AP: the Davis funding should mimic the price of Loiselle from last year.

AL: again, MTS doesn’t have outside funding.

BH: we spent $24/pp for Loiselle last year.

BP: how many large competitions is it really necessary to fund? There are groups that didn’t even get funding for a single competition.

MB: we typically do three competitions plus Davis in the fall; this fall, we cut it back to one competition plus Davis. The other competitions are in the spring, and we are just asking for funding to send in for registration. So we won’t be asking for much more money in the spring.
DW: BJ, were you asking how many total competitions or how many competitions MTS is traveling to?

BJ: travel.

MB: we are traveling to ABA is in Boston, TYLA is in Boston, Capitol City is in DC.

Motion to vote on MTS allotment of $7,318.92 – DS
Second – BC
Yes – 12
No – 7
Abstentions – 1
Motion passes

MA: the question becomes Moot Court Board’s allotment of $2,351.19.

[no speakers]

MA: the question is now the Public Interest Law Group’s (PILG’s) allotment of $13,574.64. Is there a representative from PILG who would like to speak?

Emily Nicholson-Gross: is auction chair and development office employee. Development office is not happy that they were approached about matching donations. It’s basically illegal for the development office to do, because they can’t accept anonymous donations to endowment funds. We can’t do a drop box for anonymous donations and matching gifts.

Eleni Alevizos: we’ve been working hard with administration to get donations from them to reduce controversy and increase funding from them. We only asked for $8,000 this year as opposed to $16,000 in previous years. We want to get a lump sum in the beginning of the year and hope that you approve the $8,000 since the drop box won’t work. We’re trying to secure other funding, but hope SBA wants to contribute.

Valerie Letendre: for the amount of money we have for fellowships, we can only give 9.5 fellowships, as opposed to 13 last year, and that includes $8,000 from SBA. We’re looking into other funding sources but want to be as reasonable as possible.

YM: clarify that the $8,000 requested was the only request for the year.

DS: is the fellowship fund count inclusive of SBA funding?

Valerie: yes.
JS: for clarification, if we vote to pass the budget as is, can we just make the $8,000 for fellowships total and eliminate the matching donation?

DS: we would have to motion on the floor to change it.

BP: can we have some clarification on the matching box idea?

AL: we wanted to have a box in the auction room where people would put cash, and professors would match cash donations at the end of the night, which we have done in the past, but those professors who matched the funds left the school. There has been controversy with fellowships, and part of it is that we don’t know if it’s appropriate to use student funding for fellowships. This would help us see how the student body feels about funding fellowships.

Emily: the only reason we previously did drop boxes is because professors personally matched funds out of their own paychecks. Without having a professor match it, development and the foundation have to be involved, and they can’t be involved in anonymous donations. No professors will match donations this year, so that’s not an option.

MA: clarification; was the issue anonymous, or could you not take any donations?

Emily: if a professor or someone wants to write a check, with their name on it, it’s OK. If it’s more than $100 and from a professor, it goes to the PILG endowment, and it’s OK

DW: the administration doesn’t think it’s fair to subject one organization to the test of whether students want to fund it or not, so that’s not necessarily a fair question. PILG has made a good-faith effort to try to reduce funding requests from the SBA. This idea of matching funds wasn’t thought out extremely well. Proposes to fund the $8,000.

MB: what if we structured the drop box so that people could donate to the SBA and SBA could match it?

Emily: that’s a question for the development office; they’re upset that they weren’t consulted about drop boxes in the first place.

ST: so the $4,000 we budgeted to match donations can’t happen?

Emily: it can, but not through a drop box.

ST: so as written, this can’t happen? It needs to be amended to even vote on it.

MA: the SBA has not received official word from the school that we can’t do this.
Emily: this comes directly from the development office.

DS: would like to talk to the Foundation, but the method Mike proposed is an issue between PILG and SBA, probably not the Foundation, although it would be worth consulting them about.

Emily: would still talk to development office.

JS: we can do it the way it’s proposed, they just won’t get the drop box money. Also, the money in drop boxes in previous years actually went to PILG, right? And then it was matched by a professor?

Emily: the money came as a donation to the professor and she donated a lump sum to PILG.

DW: the organization has already raised $16,000 on their own, to ask them to find another $4,000 is a little ridiculous. They’re just asking SBA for a little contribution, and the student body seems to think it’s a worthy cause.

**Motion to remove matching language from the funding proposal and fund $8,000 total for fellowships – DW**
Second – JS

BP: so what do we want to add? An additional $4,000 donation from SBA?

MA: the question is to change the final line item from fellowships matching donations - $4,000 to: fellowships - $8,000.

BP: so the last two lines?

MA: the total fellowship number would become one line and be $8,000 total.

**Motion to strike matching language from the proposal and fund PILG fellowships at $8,000 total – DW**
Second – JS

MA: question is now total fellowship allotment of $8,000 and the total PILG budget amount staying the same.

PK: can we allocate $8,000, but allocate it as future funding for next semester?

MA: this is a motion to amend. Once this motion passes, the budget is still open to debate by the student body. We are changing what we are debating.

Yes – 17
No – 1
Abs – 2

**Motion Passes**

MA: Question is now PILG’s total budget allotment, as amended, of $13,574.64. Any debate?

AL: can we table this momentarily to discuss this with the development office?
DS: we can talk to the foundation about this, and perhaps pursue fellowship funding through a supplemental process.

PK: maybe we can give $4,000 now and talk about $4,000 next semester.

JK: fellowships last year got $12,000, right?

DS: yes.

**Motion to vote to approve PILG budget of $13,574.64 – JS**
Second – JK
Yes – 17
No – 1
Abs – 2
**Motion passes**

MA: the question is now the Pro Se allotment of $875.43.

Erica McKenzie: Pro Se is pleased with its budget and respectfully yields time to WLSA.

MA: this attempt to extend time isn’t in good faith, so the request to yield time is denied.

Erica: but we asked at the beginning of the meeting if groups could yield their discussion time to other groups.

MA: in light of this, will add time to WLSA’s discussion, but WLSA has to wait to speak until we get to discussing them.

MA: is SALDF going to be the same thing?

Erica: yes.

MZ: can the parliamentarian keep debate germane to the question on the table?

MA: parliamentarian is responsible for keeping order, and so has discretion, but the executive board can overrule him at any time.

MA: the question is now SALSA’s budget.

DW: has ILS consulted with SALSA about combining this event?

Chris de Ocejo: the human trafficking event? Yes, we have.
ST: what’s the expected turnout for this event?

Chris: about 75 people.

ST: is this a recurring event?

Chris: no, it’s not, but we were able to secure speakers so then we approached other groups to create this event.

AP: as a general point, 2 million people trafficked are women and WLSA wasn’t asked to co-sponsor this event.

MA: any other debate? Any contention on the SALSA budget?

[no speakers]

MA: any speakers on SBA Diversity Committee’s budget?

[no speakers]

MA: the question is now SBA Social Committee’s allotment of $19,704.90.

DW: asked for $30,000 from the budget committee and was funded at about $20,000. After we fulfill obligations for Fall Ball, tailgate, and standing community events like the Halloween Party and Midnight Breakfast, it’s a question of splitting $1,839 between tailgate and Halloween, which means we would basically have to choose one. Social committee also doesn’t have a discretionary fund, which has been granted in previous years.

AW: can people be quiet so DW can speak?

MB: what’s the allocation from last year for social committee?

DS: fall total was $11,385 spent, $13,500 allocated (which is about the amount being spent on Fall Ball this year). There’s no reason the Halloween Party and tailgate can’t both happen. The tailgate – there are serious concerns over the liability here and how to do it without spending a huge amount of money. The budget committee felt that for liability reasons, it’s not a proper event.

ST: with all due respect, last year’s social events were just adequate. This year, we’re trying to get better venues, and upgrade events overall. Social committee is probably the only group on campus that attracts hundreds of students at each event. All other groups put on SBA events that are open to all students, but those groups really cater to
select groups. These are social events without an agenda; encourages 1Ls to attend these events.

BC: is there a possibility of doing tailgate without purchasing tickets for everyone?

DW: that money is actually a wash. For every dollar spent on tickets we will get all but $5 back, because the tickets are going to be sold to students at a $5 discount. We wanted to be able to offer tickets, because we get dumped on by the larger university in terms of social events.

**Motion to table social committee budget – DW**
Second – JK
Yes – 16
No – none
Abstentions – 2

**Motion passes; SBA Social Committee budge is tabled.**

YM: we’re looking at 10:50 PM and we still have to talk about WLSA. The lights might be cut off. We can move to pass the rest of the budget and still talk about WLSA if we can afterwards if necessary.

**Motion to open discussion on WLSA – DW**
Second – AP
Yes – 16
No – none
Abstentions – 3

**Motion passes**

Rose-Ellen El Khoury: WLSA is scheduled to have an event to have Dr. Nancy Capello speak about dense bone tissue mammograms. She was the driving force behind key legislation in CT to have an ultrasound and mammogram covered by insurance agencies. She agreed to come speak as a favor to the school and to WLSA. She has to be in California the next day so it can’t be rescheduled.

AL: can we put WLSA’s budget request on the board?

Erica McKenzie: WLSA has been working on this event since August, we secured the speaker and tried hard to find a particular date for the event. It can’t be on a different day or later the next day because she has to fly out. WLSA’s events have traditionally been well-attended by faculty, students and members of the community; we’ve never had a problem with attendance. We wouldn’t put on an event unless we thought it would do well. We respectfully request that it would be funded like all well-planned student events that follow budgeting guidelines should be.
AP: we did send out a petition to have a concrete attendance count for the event. We have 40 people who signed and made comments that it’s a blatant disregard for SBA to give no funding for this event just because there is another event at the same time. We’re not trying to diminish the importance of conflicting events. This woman has devoted her life after surviving cancer to talk about it and help people who are suffering.

MB: nobody is disputing the merits of the speech and what the speaker has gone through; the fact of the matter is that another event with four student groups at the same time will be highly attended. This event shouldn’t be at a time that detracts from another event or has another event detract from it. We want it to get the maximum amount of people to attend; she deserves a full room.

ST: what factors did the budget committee use to balance the events? Was it expected turnouts, or some other balancing action?

DS: across all events, we looked at expected turnout, how many groups are cosponsoring (we encourage this), and who we think would go to each event. If the events were conflicting, it’s a concern that people can’t go to both events.

MB: defer time to Cody Guarnieri.

Cody: without regard to what the actual events are, it gets a little too normative deciding what events get to go on and what doesn’t.

DS: is the secretary of ILS. When we discussed this event as well as the ILS event, DS abstained from both votes. The budget committee and others have reached out to WLSA to talk about trying to reschedule, but only got responses saying that the budget committee shouldn’t take event dates into account.

AP: DS as ILS secretary asked WLSA board if it could be rescheduled. Since the speaker has a flight the next morning, it’s not appropriate to have the event later in the day. The SBA treasurer then asked if the event had been moved. This seems like a conflict of interest.

MB: you can’t accuse David of doing anything wrong; he didn’t vote. It was a budget committee discussion.

JS: how much money does WSA need for this event?

AP: we just ask for $400.

**Motion to amend WLSA budget to what it was plus $400 for this event – JS**
Second – AL
Yes – 16
No – none
Abstentions – 4
**Motion passes**

MA: question is now whether to confirm WLSA’s budget plus $400.

**Motion to vote to confirm WLSA’s proposed budget amount, plus $400** – DW
Second – AP
Yes – 13
No – 1
Abstentions – 6
**Motion passes**

**Motion to approve budget, with amended changes, and with SBA Social Committee tabled** – DS
Second – AP
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
**Motion passes**

**Motion to adjourn meeting** – all
Second –
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
**Motion passes**
University of Connecticut School of Law
Student Bar Association (SBA) Meeting
10 13 2010, 9:30 PM, Library 202

Attendance (absences in strikeouts):

Executive Board:
Yamuna Menon, YM, President
DeVaughn Ward, DW, Vice President
Bethany DiMarzio, BD, Secretary
David Shufrin, DS, Treasurer

Class Representatives:
1L Day - Francisco Russo, FR
1L Day - Brynn Cullen, BC
1L Day - Peter Kim, PK
1L Day - Patricia Pernes, PP
1L Evening - Franklin Perry, FP
1L Evening - Alex Wing, AW
2L Day - Blake Holler, BH
2L Day - Sebastian Tornatore, ST
2L Day - Allison Pannozzo, AP
2L Day - Mike Barrese, MB
3L Day - Zohaib "Z" Rasheed, ZR
3L Day - Angie Lachhman, AL
3L Day - Jeff Chase, JC
3L Day - Jon Schaefer, JS
LLM – Yousef Abdul Latif, YL
Upperclass Evening - Marco Allocca, MA
Upperclass Evening - Dan Csuka, DC
Upperclass Evening - Jeff Kanca, JK
Upperclass Evening—BJ Pivonka, BP

Also in Attendance:
ABA Representative – Matt Zagaja, MZ
Various committee representatives
YM: call to order 9:32 PM.

Motion to begin meeting – JS
Second – BH
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion Passes

YM: we have a number of updates to get to. First, any public comments?

[no comment]

BD: sent out minutes from 9/15 and 9/30, then re-sent 9/30 minutes with corrections. Does anyone have questions about the minutes?

Motion to accept 9/15 minutes – BD
Second – ST
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions - none
Motion passes

Motion to accept 9/30 minutes – BD
Second – MA
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

DW: we had 206 paying guests at fall ball, not including a few tickets we comped. Since we estimated 170 people would show up, our food cost went up to $5,700. Long story short, the Marriott is sending us back $1,000, so we came in way under budget.
Upcoming events: tailgate is the 29th, we have 34 tickets to the West Virginia game. The Halloween party is October 30th at the Pond House.

YM: more details on the social budget to come later. Thanks to DeVaughn and the social committee for helping put together to staff the Fall Ball. It was a great time and we had awesome SBA representation.

BD: a few clarifications about office hours. You have to show up when you are assigned, and can check out the office key from reserve on the library. Check the voicemail and answer the phone. People might come in and ask you questions, so please either
answer it or direct the question to anyone who can answer. Feel free to encourage your class to come see you during office hours with comments or concerns.

YM: did people see the SBA picture in the office? It’s posted in the office and on our website as well. We also have an update on the Knight Hall office – Facilities is working on it and it’s underway. We see the office being ready soon, and we hope to allocate for furniture and items in that office. The SBA is using the Starr office extensively, and we want to keep the Knight Hall office open to student groups. Will also be sending out a President’s Report to the student body so that they know what we are up to at the end of this semester and the beginning of next semester. Next item on the agenda is discussion of the budget.

DS: we will start out by discussing the Social Budget.

YM: we made some last-minute changes, so no hard copies are available, but we’re going to put it up on the projector. The next item will be committee updates, so please be prepared to speak if you have an update.

DW: for Fall Ball, food and gratuity came out to $7,413.43, plus buses and DJ. For tailgate, we already purchased thirty tickets for $1,057, plus we need a bus, food, parking, and insurance for the event; the insurance is a pending cost, because Rentschler might be able to add us on to their insurance, but we might have to purchase it.

DS: there’s a concern about liability and insurance for this event being very high, which is why we are estimating $1,000 for insurance.

DW: the 34 tickets are planned for sale at a staggered cost. We bought them for $35 each and want to sell for $30 each, which includes food. If people want to come but don’t want to go to the game, they can buy a ticket for $10.

JS: are the buses running back and forth?

DW: yes, we’re paying for them, so they’ll run continuously. For the Halloween party, the price is $3,390, which is about $16 per person. We will be getting nice appetizers, two vegetarian and two meat appetizers, plus tax and gratuity.

JC: so the tickets for the football game cost $35 each but we’re charging $30 for them?

DW: yes.

JC: will other people show up at the tailgate, who haven’t bought a ticket through SBA?

DW: we’ve never had a tailgate before so we don’t know what to expect.
JC: just wondering if someone shows up there at the tailgate, are we going to ask them for $10?

DW: that seems kind of strict.

JC: is there going to be anyone enforcing payment or giving out wristbands or something? Does anyone who shows up just get free food?

DW: point well taken. We also want to be conscious that some students don’t have cars, so if they’re going to the tailgate, they’re going to take the bus so they will have paid $10. We don’t really strictly enforce anything. We’re not going to get into a fight about a chicken wing.

DS: to put this into context, if we didn’t charge people who didn’t get a ticket, we would have to increase the total budget for the event. The total budget we’re looking at now is actually less than the Budget Committee’s original suggestion, because we saved on Fall Ball. If we change the ticket price, we have to change the budget figures.

MZ: are people going to be bringing their own drinks to the tailgate?

DW: that discussion has been taking place among e-board. We’re trying to figure out our alcohol policy for this event. We’ve never restricted people from bringing alcohol to SBA events. If we restrict this event, it goes against what we generally do. My opinion is that we’re not supplying or transporting alcohol, and the SBA isn’t providing coolers, so our liability should be fairly low.

YM: that’s an important point.

DS: if we’re hosting an event that we’re encouraging drinking at, we have to watch liability. At events like Fall Ball, liquor is being distributed by a licensed vendor. People still bring their own drinks to Fall Ball, but here, it’s solely people bringing their own drinks. After some research, DS is more comfortable doing this as long as we have insurance. We’re usually on the venue’s insurance; here, we’re in a parking lot, so we’re going to look into getting onto Rentschler’s insurance, but that might not be possible.

JS: is there going to be a tent, or are we just standing in the parking lot?

DW: we can bring some tables and that will be that.

JS: if we don’t control who’s coming, anyone can come and give us liability issues.

DW: how people choose to conduct themselves once they’re there falls on the individual, but we have to be mindful of how that falls back on us.
MA: it might be useful to explain why the school doesn’t cover SBA’s liability.

DS: state employees are covered under state insurance, so if something goes wrong, the AG defends them, but not us. If something goes wrong for us, we might not be able to get the school to defend us. The whole SBA can be sued, including everyone who participates in the vote. Every rep is a member of the board of the organization and therefore could be liable.

AP: if we’re that worried about it, why can’t we just have people sign a hold harmless when they buy their ticket?

DS: what if someone drives there himself, gets drunk, drives home and kills someone?

AP: if someone is drinking their own alcohol and driving their own car it’s their own fault.

JC: aren’t we required to get insurance?

DS: we’re not required to get insurance unless alcohol will be served.

DW: we’re not buying alcohol. If anyone buys alcohol, it will be purchased from Rentschler. David’s concern is if people who didn’t take the bus mingle with people who did, there could be some liability. I’m of the opinion that if we didn’t buy the alcohol, the problem is on them.

DS: concern is also that we are officially sponsoring this event. Wants to make sure we are covered.

DW: this might all be a moot point, because we’re going to look into getting insurance.

DS: if we can purchase it, it’s still a moot point.

DW: back to the Halloween party. There is a band setup fee of $300. We wanted to mix it up and thought a rock band would be the way to go. Matt Carlone, a 3L, has a band and they will be playing. They’re really good – they do some covers.

YM: it’s not just a band, we can also play music over the speakers.

DW: the band will play about an hour. The room rental is already paid, $212. The Pond House will decorate for us.

JC: what does the band need the $300 for?
DW: they have to transport all their equipment to the Pond House from Wethersfield.

JC: $300 it seems like a lot unless we’re compensating them for something.

DW: if we hired a DJ, it would be $500.

JC: but this $300 would be considered compensation.

DS: we’re going to need a W9 from them unless they can give us a receipt saying they spent $300 on something, so it will be considered compensation, though that might not be what we’re intending.

JC: it’s ok to pay for the band, but it still seems like compensation.

DW: point taken. There has also been some concern about the food for this event. There will be 4 appetizers, finger food, for $16.95 per person, probably 2-3 apps per person. There has been some concern that this is too pricey.

MB: what time does it start?

DW: 8 pm.

MB: won’t most people have eaten dinner? Can we just get two apps?

AL: think we just need to let people know it’s just appetizers, since people might be expecting dinner after Fall Ball.

DW: we will make it clear that it’s just light appetizers. We can do 3 apps instead of 4.

BH: any drink sponsors?

DW: no. Right now only Kaplan and BarBri sponsor us, and we’re saving Kaplan for Spring Fling.

MB: how much will tickets be?

DW: tickets will be $5 per person. There has been some concern over this as well. Last year it was free to attend, but it also wasn’t as nice a venue. For $5 to hear a live band and eat food, you won’t get a better deal.

YM: this would be new for us, charging for tickets, so we want to bring this before the SBA.
MA: how helpful or necessary is ticket sales? We’re getting in the habit of charging for events, and it would be nice to have them for free.

DW: if it were up to me we would do everything for free.

DS: as long as this allocation doesn’t go above what Budget Committee planned for, it’s OK. Would be fine with getting rid of ticket sales, since people spend a lot on costumes, so buying a ticket then seems silly.

MB: would you have someone at the door or sell tickets in advance?

DW: we could do it either way.

JK: if we can’t sell it at the door, we shouldn’t do it.

AP: but then someone has to sit at the door and sell them.

DW: sounds like people want it to be free.

DS: last year, someone did sit at the door of the Halloween party. Even though it wasn’t charged, we have to make sure no random people came in.

BH: but are we going to have the same problem at the Pond House?

DW: we will actually have Hartford PD outside, so shouldn’t have problems.

YM: is there a general consensus on ticket sales?

**Motion to have Halloween party be free/ticketless – DW**
Second – MA
Yes – al but 4
No – 2
Abstentions – 2
Motion passes

DW: the holiday party total cost is about $5,000. We are putting in $2,000 and the Dean’s office is providing the rest.

YM: this is a very collaborative, successful event.

DW: midnight breakfast is $1,600. Last year we did $1,800 and we had leftovers so we cut down the budget for this year.

DS: in the fall $1,100 we allocated, spring $1,800 for this event.
YM: we think $1,600 is more in line with the amount of food we need.

DW: exam coffee is about $1/cup, we have asked for $1,000, so we will get 1,500 cups, once you kick in the Dean’s money.

BH: so we are getting $500 from the Dean’s office? If it’s just 1,000 cups funded by SBA money we will run out.

DW: yes, we should be getting that money from the Dean’s office.

DS: there’s been discussion about using our own coffee makers for exam coffee, but for now, we’re budgeting this as if we’re doing it at the co-op. We’re going to remove the ticket sales from the Halloween party budget request so we are looking to approve a $19,204.90 budget for social committee. Does anyone want to bring up a change for any number?

JC: wants everyone to know we’re paying Matt $300 to be in a band.

YM: if there are concerns, we need to vote on band setup for the Halloween party.

JC: is ok with the cost, but wants it to say that we’re paying the band.

DW: PILG did a similar event with Under Cover and it was almost $1,000 to set up.

JC: if that’s what it is, fine, but if they have all their own stuff, we’re paying them, and we should be transparent about that.

MA: does this involve rentals, or are they bringing their own stuff? If they’re bringing their own stuff, it’s not a setup fee.

DW: it is basically compensation for them bringing their stuff and taking it back.

DS: when we vote on this event, it will appear on our budget as a total number, and this language about the band setup fee will not appear. Has no problem changing language to compensation. We will get a W9 from the band.

FP: what about the food price? Can it go down or are we committed to the price?

DW: we can’t get the exact math on this. The menu doesn’t have itemized appetizers, but if we reduce the number of appetizers, the price will go down.
DS: we considered providing food for less people, but this number is calculated at 200 people. If we change the budget, it probably will affect the number of appetizers we have.

BH: time frame for the event?

DW: 8 to midnight.

BH: for food, most people are drinking, and won’t eat that much food.

DS: that might be a reason to have more food.

BH: doesn’t remember a lot of food being eaten last year.

DS: a lot of people didn’t know it was there, so that might have contributed to the problem.

BD: concerned about the price per person. If each person gets 2-3 apps, at $16.95 per person, that’s almost $5 per bite of food.

YM: we need to decide what to do with this number.

DW: to get the space, there’s a $2,500 minimum food and beverage purchase. We can drop the budget to the minimum and purchase $2,500 worth of food.

DS: does alcohol go into this?

DW: not sure, so we should purchase the food minimum to be safe.

AL: we can do chips and dip and that will go a long way.

DW: if we reduce to $2,500 is that OK?

MA: that sounds better.

**Motion to reduce food budget for the Halloween Party to $2,500 – DW**
Second – BH
Yes – 17
No – 1
Abstentions – 1
**Motion passes**

ST: what is being charged per drink for Halloween?
DW: drink prices will be similar to Fall Ball.

YM: the fall budget for social committee is currently proposed at $18,374.53.

**Motion to allocate social committee budget $18,374.53 – DS**
Second – AP
Yes – 18
No – 1
Abstentions – 2
Motion passes

YM: we’re moving on to supplementary budgets. We had two proposals put forth and we need the SBA to approve them, so we will discuss those.

DS: we’ll start out with Diversity Committee.

YM: we have Lisa and Heidi, Diversity Committee chairs, here tonight. They put forth a supplementary proposal for their collaboration luncheon.

DS: the total number requested is $679.30. It’s for food from Truffles. Last year, this event cost close to $1,200. The original request was for over $1,000, but the budget committee decided $600 is closer to the right amount, but there were still concerns over attendance. This price allows for 70 people; some people have thought the number in attendance would be higher or lower. DS suggests we allocate for 60 people, which cuts $100 off the request, and if 70 people do RSVP, discretionary funds can be used to purchase extra food. When preparing the fall budget, we allocated 115% of our income, and then left 5% of that for the supplemental process. We currently have about $3,300 available for the rest of the semester.

Lisa: would like to address how we got to 70 people. For this event, we plan to contact every active group on campus, which is a little over 40, and ask that at least 1-2 representatives come to this event. Last year, we got a good number of student groups to come. We also extend invitations to faculty. This year, in order to comply with SBA funding rules, we’re opening it up to the whole campus, and are providing spots first-come, first served. Last year, we had about 60 people attend. This is a collaboration luncheon, so we want all groups on campus to come together and talk about how we can get the groups to collaborate. We want to work on Diversity Week in the spring. We want to get all the groups talking, get a plan for Diversity Week, and make sure everything runs smoothly.

BD: likes the idea of inviting student groups to come, but concerned that inviting certain people won’t leave room for other students to come. In a way it says that the general
members of the groups are less important than the executive board. Is there a way to ensure that people who aren’t on executive boards can attend the event too?

Lisa: we want to reach out to e-boards to make sure everyone is represented. If we open it up to the whole school right off the bat, we think some groups will be better represented than others. We don’t want to have imbalance. But we could offer that if e-board can’t come, that other members of the group can attend in their place.

BD: concern is really that we’re rewarding executive board members and saying that they get precedence over the general body members.

LR: we need to target people who can actually commit to collaborating a student group towards helping with Diversity Committee events.

JC: it’s not like we’re trying to tell certain people they can’t come, we just want equal representation from all groups. It’s good to encourage different groups to go. It’s about planning, so we want people to show up who will actually do stuff, not just listen.

DS: on this campus, if you want to be a leader of student org, you pretty much can be. There are also a lot of overlaps between student group leaders, so some people will be invited to represent multiple groups.

MA: concerned that there’s an issue of multiple groups having the same executive board. Supports the idea of giving preference to executive board members. The concern is the actual number expected; how realistic is 70?

YM: right now we’re making suggestions as to how this event is run; it does need to be open to the student body. However, right now we’re voting on the number of people we will fund food for.

Heidi: we know there are 40 student groups, and we wanted to be mindful of how many leaders would show up. It depends on how people react to the lottery. If we open a lottery, 70 people is a moderate count.

DS: is there anyone who wants to vote on 50 people? 60? 70? Any other number?

[general positive reaction to 70 people]

YM: we’re going to vote on the budget for 70 people.

**Motion to approve Diversity Committee supplemental budget request of $679.30 – DS**
Second – ST
Yes – 19
No – none
Abs – none

Motion passes

DS: one more supplemental budget. This is Mock Trial Society, the ABA section of the labor and employment law’s competition. They are requesting $1,841.98 to send a second team. Note that we already budgeted funds to send one team to this competition. The Budget Committee’s general consensus was not to fund this, because there are some groups who didn’t get funding at all. The committee feels that to give a group a second team, when we denied other groups teams, it’s wrong.

MB: doesn’t think this request should be approved. Is the treasurer of Mock Trial Society. We have a team going, and if they really want to double up, they can squeeze people into the rooms that already got funded. When we budgeted, there was only one team set up. It’s not fair to send a second team when some groups didn’t get to send one team to the competition of their choice.

DS: MTS was allocated about $7,000 for events this semester.

JC: if we don’t fund this, can the second team not go?

MB: if they want to go, the extra four people can squeeze in the rooms. They would have to pay for parking, gas, and exhibits, but it would come out to $30 cost per each of the eight people. There’s no extra registration fee.

Motion to vote to fund MTS – ST
Second – AP
Yes – none
No – all
Abs – none

Motion is denied

YM: will hold off on discussing the capital improvements budget in favor of doing faculty committee updates.

Betsy Walters: is the Education and Policy Faculty Committee representative, along with Brendan Owens. We’ve had two meetings, discussing small details. We are still trying to figure out the purpose of the committee; they approve new courses, have some control over the academic calendar (but that discussion is in preliminary stages), and clarify educational policies. The student committee members want to get opinions on a few issues. The committee wants to clarify the upper-level writing requirement. Betsy wants to make sure they clarify it, rather than restrict it. Any other opinions on the writing requirement? Wants to focus on making sure qualified work gets approved. With the winter term calendar, the faculty is talking about making our time off in January longer, which would make the second semester 13 instead of 14 weeks. It
seems to be for budgetary issues, and there’s discussion of bringing in outside professors to hold a class during the intersession. If you were offered a course from an interesting visiting professor, would you be willing to come to class in January and pay for it?

FR: there are benefits from beyond this campus. If we have a longer intersession, you can do more, like study in another country.

MB: if they’re cutting a week off of second semester, do we not pay as much?

Betsy: they want to make classes longer, which might not be popular. They talked about lengthening evening classes by fifteen minutes, but not day.

DS: what’s loan availability for intersession classes?

Betsy: it’s not clear yet. That issue might halt this discussion.

JC: would do it if he didn’t have to pay extra, and could have credits on second semester, but then the school doesn’t get revenue from it.

Betsy: are people even here in intersession? Seems like there are mixed feelings.

AP: one credit isn’t really worth it in the scheme of things.

Betsy: so seems like if it will be too difficult, it’s not a benefit to the students. Next issue: now we have six weeks for an add/drop period, and they want to make it shorter.

[general feelings that it should stay the same length]

YM: anyone support shortening it?

AL: it’s worked so far, why change it.

Betsy: considering bringing up the problem that so many courses are offered at night, once a week. Do people feel frustration over this?

[general assent]

MA: feels inclined to represent evening students. Once you’re done with 1LE year, you have essentially the same requirements as a 2LD. The university is trying to offer classes that everyone can take. The university might not have the ability to offer certain classes in both the day and the evening. Not opposed to having more classes offered in the day, but doesn’t want to restrict the number of classes evening students can choose from.
Betsy: evening students do also have four years to complete their degree, which gives you more time to get the classes you want in your schedule. However, the faculty has also expressed the opinion that evening students don’t work outside of class.

MA: a lot of evening students work too.

Betsy: the faculty thinks it’s only 25% that works. How would it impact evening students if they offered classes in the day one semester and in the evening the next semester?

MA: as long as they maintain the ability for the evening students to take that class. Doesn’t want to see classes offered at the same time every year.

AL: agrees with everything that has been said in terms of day/evening classes, but still loves the 3-hour evening blocks. It’s good for some people to knock out the classes quickly, especially if you have an internship.

MA: a lot of evening students do internships and clerkships during the day too.

DS: can’t stay focused through 3-hour classes. Few students in the evening classes are evening students.

Betsy: for next semester, most classes that are interesting are during the evening, so it’s a little frustrating, but there are clearly issues for consideration here.

MZ: signed up for the day division thinking he would be free at night. There are a lot of community events that we have to miss class to go to that are in the evening, so night classes can be disruptive to day students’ outside activities.

AP: doesn’t work so that she can go to school. There has to be some kind of balance.

Betsy: will bring up these considerations to the faculty committee and see what we can come up with.

MA: it definitely is hard to find day classes. Find out what their reasoning is behind all the night classes. See if they can make some trade-offs to make the schedule more even.

YM: can you bring this feedback to them and update us?

Betsy: yes. We meet every other week.

AL: the school doesn’t like having classes between 5 and 6:30 PM, but maybe they can utilize this time too.
YM: thank you Betsy. It’s critical that we have students on these faculty committees. Asks the Diversity Committee to give any updates they have.

Lisa: the diversity action plan has been revived. Dean Schmeiser started a faculty diversity committee, and we’re going to have a diversity webpage on the school website. At the end of the semester we’re going to survey students to see how faculty can incorporate diversity into the curriculum. We have a lunch and learn next Thursday on the census, please come.

YM: anything from the ABA Matt?

MZ: has been trying to get people to sign up for the ABA. Sent out an e-mail about the Bar/Bri scholarship that’s available, and has been talking to Kaplan, who will make a $500 public interest scholarship available as well. Will forward out more info soon.

DS: how did the conference go?

YM: Matt and I went to the ABA circuit meeting, which is an opportunity to meet with other law schools and do some networking.

MZ: we’re trying to meet with people, including Dean Paul, to discuss the ABA’s presence on campus. Also got an e-mail from the ABA seeking student organizations looking to network with the same organization at other schools, and can forward it to any student org leaders.

DS: can you forward this to the SBA account?

MZ: sure.

YM: Jeff, anything from Campus Safety?

JK: got the materials from last year. We will have a meeting next week, and everyone is welcome to attend. Goals: pick up the carpooling project, start an awareness class, start looking into logistics of a self-defense course. Will send out an e-mail about our meeting.

YM: Marco, Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

MA: Constitution and Bylaws hasn’t officially met yet. We’re addressing a lot of issues and re-writing the entire constitution. Plan is to write a first draft, tear it apart, redo it, and submit it to the SBA for approval. Not sure how we go about amending this either, because the constitution isn’t clear. Please feel free to join the committee.
YM: this is one of our most important committees. Also asked Marco to look at adding a parliamentarian role. With the addition of the ABA rep as a non-voting member, we might want to look into having them added as a voting member. We need to look at elections committee bylaws first. For constitutional amendments, the goal is to have them done around spring elections. Your input as reps is critical, so please tell us what needs improvement.

YM: turns it over to Dan for Evening and LLM Division Committee.

DC: Evening and LLM Division Committee hasn’t met yet. We’ve talked a little bit, and decided that the best approach would be to come up with a survey to send to the evening students, to get their opinion about access to career services and course availability. We’ve had some problems with people meeting their requirements. We’re still brainstorming at this point.

YM: over to Angie for Public Interest.

AL: Pro Bono and Public Interest Committee’s big goal is to get people to sign up for the pro bono pledge. We might have the forms available at the PILG auction. It’s not a huge commitment. Right now, you can only apply 5 hours outside of legal work towards your pro bono pledge, and there has been talk about increasing that, so it depends on how strongly the students feel about it.

YM: Sebastian, any update for Facilities?

ST: Facilities Committee did the lockers. About 8 people who got lockers didn’t claim their lockers, so they went back into the pool. Only 3 people submitted write-on applications for lockers. The Facilities Committee agrees that all three are worthy of the lockers. There are now additional lockers, and we’ve thought about setting one aside for a special-needs student, which is a fantastic idea. We just have to decide what to do with empty lockers - we can hold on to empty lockers until next semester, or we can pull more numbers from people who already applied, but if people didn’t care enough to write 350 words for a locker, they probably don’t care enough. We will be getting lockers to the write-on’s next week.

YM: Jon mentioned the bench outside for facilities, and you can also work on the library lounge.

ST: we want to open the committee to the student body, see if there is an artist who wants to paint something to put in the lounge. We also want to make the Knight Lounge more habitable, which might be a long-term project.

DS: any eye on renovating Truffles?
ST: if people think it’s worth the time, we can look into working on it.

YM: can we talk about this next meeting?

[General assent]

YM: anything else?

**Motion to adjourn meeting** – ST
Second – AP
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
**Motion passes**
University of Connecticut School of Law
Student Bar Association (SBA) Meeting
10 27 2010, 9:30 PM, Library 202

Attendance (absences in strikeouts):

Executive Board:
  Yamuna Menon, YM, President
  DeVaughn Ward, DW, Vice President
  Bethany DiMarzio, BD, Secretary
  David Shufrin, DS, Treasurer

Class Representatives:
  1L Day - Francisco Russo, FR
  1L Day - Brynn Cullen, BC
  1L Day (newly elected tonight) – Matt Loftus, ML
  1L Day - Patricia Pernes, PP
  1L Evening - Franklin Perry, FP
  1L Evening - Alex Wing, AW
  2L Day - Blake Holler, BH
  2L Day - Sebastian Tornatore, ST
  2L Day - Allison Pannozzo, AP
  2L Day - Mike Barrese, MB
  3L Day - Zohaib "Z" Rasheed, ZR
  3L Day - Angie Lachhman, AL
  3L Day - Jeff Chase, JC
  3L Day - Jon Schaefer, JS
  LLM – Yousef Abdul Latif, YL
  Upperclass Evening - Marco Allocca, MA
  Upperclass Evening - Dan Csuka, DC
  Upperclass Evening - Jeff Kanca, JK
  Upperclass Evening - BJ Pivonka, BP

Also in Attendance:
  ABA Representative – Matt Zagaja, MZ
  1L Day Representative Nominees
  Advisor – Jane Thierfeld Brown, JB
YM: call to order 9:30 PM.

Motion to begin meeting – BP
Second – AL
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion Passes

YM: public comment?

[no comment]

BD: recently sent out minutes for our 10/13 meeting. Any questions or comments?

[no comment]

Motion to approve 10/13 minutes – DW
Second – AP
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

BD: Secretary’s report. Remember to do your office hours. If you can’t make it, get someone to cover your shift. If you missed one already, I might ask you to do an extra hour in the future. Office hours are posted online or you can e-mail me to ask what they are.

YM: we know everyone does a lot, but please try to be conscientious about your hours.

BD: check your e-mail regularly for SBA correspondence. If you’re not sure what committee you’re on, check the SBA website. We have two meetings left this semester – 11/10 and 12/1, both Wednesdays, same time, same place. Please let me know if you can’t attend a meeting. After your second and third absences, you get written notice, and after four absences you are subject to removal from the board.

DS: Treasurer’s report. We do have some supplemental budget requests on hand, but none before the SBA tonight. Budget-wise, we’re doing well on money, no problems there. In our checking account we have $56,000, and we have $40,000 in our stiff account.

DW: tailgate is Friday the 29th. We are probably sold out of tickets by now. Bus leaves here at 6:00. If you don’t have a ticket to the game you are still welcome to come hang
out. Halloween party is on the 30th at the Pond House from 8pm-12am. PILG Auction is next Friday 11/5, great event, here on campus this year, please join us.

YM: introduces Jane Thierfeld Brown, our advisor and Student Services Coordinator.

JB: usually comes to 2-3 meetings per semester, and is sorry she hasn’t been here until now. Glad we got a change of room from Knight 215. If you’re having any student group issues, JB is available, and is willing to help you think through any event. Office is across from the Registrar, Chase 204.

YM: thanks to all who came to the SBA Diversity Collaboration Luncheon. Tables were filled and we had good ideas and feedback all around for Diversity Week. Happy Birthday to Mike Barrese a few days ago, Dan Csuka tomorrow, Jeff Kanca on Friday, and Ingrid next week. Career Planning has a big event next week that they asked us to advertise: Susan Gainen, Wednesday 11/3, at 5:30 PM in the Davis Courtroom, will be speaking on Alternative Careers in the 21st Century. They are looking for a strong turnout so try to attend.

YM: We will now take care of 1L Day elections. Are all nominees in attendance?

[all nominees are in attendance]

YM: nominees will come up one at a time and the other nominees will exit. Each candidate gives a brief statement, the SBA has the opportunity to ask questions, and we will then have closed discussion and a vote. First Nominee is Curtis.

[all other nominees leave room]

BC: can non-voting members stay in the room?

YM: yes, because it’s an open meeting, non-voting members can stay, and SBA members can yield their time to a non-member.

BD: technically, only SBA members can participate in discussion. The only way non-SBA members can participate is if an SBA rep yields their time.

Motion to change minutes from word-to-word to action minutes – DS
Second – MA

JC: shouldn’t we do this before we discuss, so questioning is still on the record?

DS: fine with that.

DS: tables his motion until discussion.

Motion is tabled
Curtis Stubbs: asks for the privilege of representing his class to the Student Bar Association. Worked as an auto mechanic full-time while an undergrad at University of Colorado at Denver, got a Bachelor’s degree at night, then went to UMass and studied Labor Studies and Economics, with a Masters in Economics. The Labor Studies program earned him an internship with a Carpenter’s Union in Springfield for over a decade. There, he negotiated contracts, worked to represent about 1,000 union members in Springfield and administer the organization. Worked on a number of political campaigns during that time, and volunteered to help substitute teachers in Springfield and nearly doubled their pay over the course of negotiations. Also served as a volunteer sponsor for a support group for kids with alcoholic parents. Wants to fully engage in being a student here and not be working full-time. Has gone to meet-the-faculty events, Tax Law Society meetings, any event with food, and volunteered with Keep the Power On, CUAC, and went to a session for VITA. Is now volunteering to represent his classmates.

MB: what presidential campaigns did you work on?

Curtis: initially supported John Edwards then worked for Barack Obama.

DW: if elected, what committee would you like to serve on, or what law school policy would you like to address?

Curtis: interested in Diversity Committee; there aren’t enough people here who have taken Law School as a chance to transition to a new career.

BD: what section are you in?

Curtis: section 1.

Matt Loftus: is a Massachusetts native, enjoys skiing, snowboarding, beach trips, and video games. Went to Northeastern University, and majored in Finance and Accounting, with a minor in Political Science. Lived in Boston for 7 years. Initially wanted to join SBA, but didn’t originally feel he would be a good choice, but at this point, knows a vast majority of his classmates in both sections and would be able to represent the whole class. Special election seems like a good opportunity to take a shot at it. No specific student government experience, but in college, did Circle K, a volunteer group, and was responsible for event planning. His committee conducted an annual bread and jams (PB&J) food drive for the homeless, as well as a campus-wide volunteer day for the food bank. Learned how to collaborate and be a team player while bettering the community. Excited about the idea of representing 1Ls and thinks he is well qualified for the position.

AL: are you a Red Sox fan?
Matt: yes.

BD: what section are you in?

Matt: section 2 specifically, the same section as the current 1L reps.

DW: what committee would you be interested in serving on or what policy issue would you address?

Matt: Diversity Committee; did a little bit of that in high school. Would like to see a lot more green initiatives on campus and collaborate with group leaders to use sustainable products.

AP: what’s the one thing you think needs to be fixed at UConn (besides environmental problems)?

Matt: has noticed that a lot of workshops and panels that groups have aren’t a big draw, and would like to see more social integration and a better turnout. Maybe add a social factor to draw students in.

DS: what groups have you been involved in?

Matt: CUAC, signed up for Kids in Need of Defense and Lawyers Without Borders, went to an ILS meeting, went to the Mock Trial events and would like to participate in Mock Trial the spring.

[Matt exits, Yifei enters]

Yifei (Ethan) He: is a 1L Day student. Likes to meet people and participate in student groups. Is in Phi Alpha Delta and SALDF, and also likes to do photo shoots for school events. Likes to attend Friday Football, Baseball, and Soccer games. Is interested in student government; was a first year government rep in undergrad. Worked after University and is also interested in politics. Fluent in four languages (has been traveling): French, English, Chinese and Korean, and likes to meet people in different backgrounds. Is active and hardworking.

BD: what section are you in?

Yifei: same as all the reps here.

DW: what issue on campus would you like to address or committee would you join?

Yifei: what are the committees?
YM: Social, Campus Safety, Elections, Evening/LLM, Facilities, Pro Bono and Public Interest, Constitution and Bylaws.

Yifei: interested in social committee.

[Yifei exits, Matt Murphy enters]

Matt Murphy: went to University of Wisconsin. Student government has always been important, from high school through college. Spent 3 years on student government in college, particularly on finance committee, which was responsible for allocating funds to student organizations and maintain the internal budget. Was on a committee of faculty and community members, as an advocate for students, to ensure that all the students’ interests were protected.

JS: what committee would you like to be on?

Matt: has done work on budgetary committees, and this would be smaller-scale than at University of Wisconsin, so you can make more informed decisions about allocating funds, and is interested in helping with that.

BD: what section are you in?

Matt: same as current 1LD reps.

ST: is there anything you would like to see SBA do on campus?

Matt: part of responsibilities in college was to ensure that groups getting funds were actually doing things. As a 1L, attended a lot of informational events and introductory meetings, and some were great, but some didn’t seem to accomplish a productive goal. Part of job in college was to make sure that groups actually do things.

JC: did you run for elections the first time?

Matt: no.

JC: why not?

Matt: had heard 1L year is a lot of work, then found out it isn’t that bad. Has also gauged the culture of the campus by now.

MA: do you know anything about UConn outside the law school?

Matt: grew up in CT, so knows a bit.
DW: where?

Matt: Avon.

DS: what student groups have you been involved in?

Matt: CSLS interests him and will probably be involved.

FP: anything you want to see changed?

Matt: seems like SBA has ducks in a row, but has only been here 2 months, and wants to get invested.

[Matt exits, Robby Canning enters]

Robby Canning: if elected, has three tenets to try to push for. First, developing more of a sense of community within the law school. Has really enjoyed the BBQ outside Hosmer/Chase, and the Hockey game last week, and community events like this make the law school a better place. Next, we have so many diverse students that we need a process to get independent ideas – SBA does a great job, but we need to find ways to encourage outside ideas more. Finally, our greatest resource is the faculty, and while we do get advisors, would like to see a way to further relationships with the professors to develop more of a mentorship. Has been involved in PAD, PILG auction, Mock Trial, which exemplifies involvement at school and desire to make it even better and contribute. Went to the first SBA meeting, and walked away feeling disappointed that he didn’t try for nominations. This is a valuable organization because you get a feel of everything going on, not just SBA, and try to help other groups further their goals.

BD: what section are you in?

Robby: same as current reps.

DW: if elected, what committee would you serve on?

Robby: would like to work with faculty in some way. Has been on faculty search committees in the past. Interested in bringing people in to come talk to students; every talk has been fantastic, and would like to get more students or better speakers.

ST: why don’t you like foosball?

Robby: not good at it.
Motion to close minutes; will not take minutes from now onwards during discussion, so minutes will just reflect winner, not discussion or the number of votes per candidate – BD
Second – AP
YM: clarifies that the winner needs a majority vote
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

[minutes closed for discussion; Matt Loftus is elected SBA 1LD Representative by a majority of voting members; all candidates re-enter room after vote]

YM: congrats to 1LD rep, Matt Loftus, and thanks to everyone for coming out!

DW: there are a number of ways to get involved on campus. A lot of you expressed interest in Diversity Committee, which SBA members actually can’t serve on, so please keep thinking about getting involved with that and stay active on campus. This isn’t the only avenue to get involved.

JC: we had to ask people to be 3L reps, so thanks for volunteering.

YM: Matt is now a voting member. We will swear him in next week.

YM: we need to start discussion on the SBA 50th Anniversary. 2009-2010 is our 50th anniversary, which is an opportunity to celebrate student governance on campus. We have a proposal on behalf of the e-board for the SBA. We didn’t get to do this event last year, but it’s a nice way to honor those who have preceded us. Each e-boarder will now discuss the event proposal.

DW: we were approached by the Foundation to host this event. The idea is to reach out to past SBA e-boards and past SBA members, to invite them back for a dinner on campus and some sort of speaker. This turned into the discussion of possibly endowing a scholarship. We have the funds to do it, and the Law School Foundation will incur the costs of putting on the event. We have a surplus of funding, and this is a great way to take that money and put it towards something other than an activity. This would be a contribution now and for future years.

YM: just asks for a few minutes to explain, and then will open it up to questions.

DW: we want to take $10,000 from our stiff account to endow a scholarship, with hopes of gaining $15,000-plus for the fund. Some people may ask why it isn’t going to PILG. PILG already has a $400,000 endowment that spins out $16-20,000 each year, so our
$10,000 would be a drop in the bucket. We are taking our money and trying to maximize the return.

DS: we’re not just trying to match it; we’re trying to quadruple it or more. The Foundation has never done something exactly like this. They don’t reach out to alumni with one event and try to fundraise. The initial idea was to take a percentage of our surplus each year and pay into this fund. There are two considerations: an event and a scholarship. The e-board is against putting up the funds for the scholarship over time like the Foundation has requested; we think it’s best to do it immediately so it gains interest and we can ensure that it goes to the right place. $40,138 is currently in our savings account, so any money we contribute would not come from what we use as our operating budget. We have about $110,000 as our operating budget this year from the current student body; this $40,138 is saved up over time. Over the last seven or so years, we have continuously had about $20,000 savings. When our previous president was treasurer, there was a $27,000 surplus, because a lot of group funding was cut, as it didn’t fit SBA guidelines. This huge surplus went into our savings account, which is the money we are talking about taking the funds out of. The idea is to reduce our stiff fund to $30,000, and take $10,000 immediately to put into a scholarship fund. The event would take place, the SBA money will go to fund scholarships immediately so we can start this up quickly, and the Foundation will raise money from alumni; they have a list of e-board members since our funding, and some representative names. But the idea is that we put money in and we will get $50,000 donations over 10 years or so. We would like to be able to put out a sustainable scholarship each year, the amount for us to decide. We would like to move to put $10,000 aside for this, with the condition that that money would not be distributed until we talk about the guidelines for awarding this scholarship. We as the SBA can’t pick the person who gets the scholarship, but we can pick the criteria.

AL: if we give this $10,000, are we donating it this semester, and is that money going to start being used next semester?

DS: the money would go in around March or April. We can decide when to announce the first winner. The idea is that it would be a leadership scholarship, for those interested in furthering activities on campus.

AL: so where does the scholarship funding come from?

DW: it all depends on interest rates; right now they’re about 4%. Say we put in $10,000 and raise $15,000, we’re looking at a $1,000 scholarship each year.

MA: will we have to submit more funds each year?
DS: we propose a few ways to go about this. We can put $10,000 in now and nothing in the future, so that it is self-sustaining, or we can pledge to the foundation a set amount of our surplus each year over a set amount of years.

MA: how does this jive with the controversies of donating to PILG? Why don’t we just give PILG another $4,000 scholarship?

DW: we could take this and give it to PILG, but that would be a one-time gift. We’re looking to grow our investment. The event highlights the SBA as a whole, and the contributions that people have made to the state. SBA members have gone on to be leaders in the state, and SBA is a pretty big deal.

DS: fifty years from now, because we put $10,000 in now, it can pay off a scholarship every year, just like the PILG fund does.

AP: because of the backlash of controversy, how do we plan to deal with people who are going to be upset that SBA made a big deal of giving money to PILG, but now doing it ourselves?

DW: that was a different SBA who had that opinion. Our SBA passed PILG’s fellowship request without a problem.

AP: not saying we should give it to PILG, is saying that PILG funding was a big issue in the past.

DW: it was a misguided issue. Until we change what the SBA student fee can be used for, it’s not a settled issue.

DS: PILG was an issue for multiple reasons, one reason that we were redistributing wealth from current student to current student. The second people found out that $1 of donated funding generates $2 of fellowships, it got approved. Here, we’re putting money into students’ pockets for years to come, not giving it to one or two current students.

ST: if we withdraw funds now, does it negatively affect facilities improvements for this year?

DS: we still have about $10-15,000 surplus in our checking account, which is used at the beginning of the year to give reimbursements, but now can be used for capital improvements. We also usually do have surpluses each year, which we use for facilities improvements over time.
MA: so the money in the surplus came partially from students last year who are still students now. UConn is a big school, and when you put money into administration, it disappears. Do we really know where this money is going?

DS: yes. The Foundation can’t take state funds, and SBA money is state funds. We’re not giving money to the Foundation, we’re giving the money to a fund that has been set up just for this, and it can only be used based on our criteria, and people will donate to that fund. So it won’t be in the hands of the administration, but one person will control it.

YM: we’re about out of time, so it looks like we will have to table discussion, but we’ll give JB the last word on this issue.

JB: your student groups are producing a lot of events and spending a lot of money, and attendance is low. There are so many events that we don’t even have enough rooms. Think about things that are out of the box, and maybe affect other people who aren’t in PILG or a specific group, but maybe just raise awareness on campus or aren’t just funding events. Think about other creative things to do with the student body’s money.

**Motion to table discussion – YM**
Second – FP
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
**Motion passes**

**Motion to adjourn meeting – YM**
Second – MA
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
**Motion passes**
University of Connecticut School of Law
Student Bar Association (SBA) Meeting
11 10 2010, 9:30 PM, Library 202

Attendance (absences in strikeouts):

Executive Board:
  Yamuna Menon, YM, President
  DeVaughn Ward, DW, Vice President
  Bethany DiMarzio, BD, Secretary
  David Shufrin, DS, Treasurer

Class Representatives:
  1L Day - Francisco Russo, FR
  1L Day - Brynn Cullen, BC
  1L Day - Matt Loftus, ML
  1L Day - Patricia Pernes, PP
  1L Evening - Franklin Perry, FP
  1L Evening - Alex Wing, AW
  2L Day - Blake Holler, BH
  2L Day - Sebastian Tornatore, ST
  2L Day - Allison Pannozzo, AP
  2L Day - Mike Barrese, MB
  3L Day - Zohaib "Z" Rasheed, ZR
  3L Day - Angie Lachhman, AL
  3L Day - Jeff Chase, JC
  3L Day - Jon Schaefer, JS
  LLM - Yousef Abdul Latif, YL
  Upperclass Evening - Marco Allocca, MA
  Upperclass Evening - Dan Csuka, DC
  Upperclass Evening - Jeff Kanca, JK
  Upperclass Evening - BJ Pivonka, BP

Also in Attendance:
  ABA Representative – Matt Zagaja, MZ
YM: call to order 9:33 PM.

Motion to begin meeting – ST
Second – AP
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion Passes

YM: public comment?

[no comment]

BD: recently sent out minutes for our 10/27 meeting. Any questions or comments?

[no comment]

Motion to approve 10/27 minutes – BP
Second – BH
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

DW: Halloween Party was well-attended. We had some disagreements with the Pond House about consumption of alcohol and may not use them again, but overall it was a good time, and about 100 people came. Upcoming, we have the Holiday Party coming up on Wednesday 12/1, and the Midnight Breakfast on 12/13, which is the same day exam coffee starts. We have $1,500 towards exam coffee and will serve until that fund runs out.

BP: can we get extreme jolt coffee?

DW: whatever they have in the co-op is whatever we will serve.

BD: last meeting of the semester is 12/1; hope to see you there.

DS: in our checking account we have around $47,000, and other figures are on the PowerPoint. We have a few discretionary allocations, also on the PowerPoint. Yam will mention more about the Knight Hall Office expenditures later.

PowerPoint Information:

Current Account Balance, as of 10/31/2010:
• Checking: $47,375.00
  o Outstanding checks: $4,605.58
  o Net Checking: $42,769.42
• Savings: $40,140.71
• Total Funds: $87,515.71

Treasurer Discretionary Allocations
• 4.23 – Coat Hooks for SBA Office
• 254.29 - SBA Starr Office Furniture
• 355.87 - SBA Knight office Furniture

Amounts Disbursed
$78,358.59 – Budgeted
($34,249.32) – Paid out
$44,109.27 – Outstanding allocations

Supplemental Requests
• $679.3 SBA DC - Diversity luncheon
• $500 BLSA - Northeast Regional Black Law Students Convention
• $450 SBA / PAD - Competition
• $150 APALSA - 2010 NAPABA Annual Convention
• $69.96 LAMBDA - General Body Meetings
• Total thus far: $1,849.26 (out of $3,352.77)

SBA Budget Process
• Supplemental process ends November 30th
• Allocations will not carry over to Spring 2011

DS: thus far, we budgeted $78,000, of which only $34,000 has been used thus far. Not sure if groups are not doing the events they proposed or if they just haven’t turned in receipts yet. As for supplemental requests, they are on the PowerPoint, all of which were approved outside the SBA (except the Diversity Committee lunch, which was approved at our SBA meeting). Not on the list, but the Connecticut Unemployment Action Center has been asking about getting a website. That budget request is on hold as the administration looks into having a website with a UConn name, which carries some concerns. Supplemental process ends November 30, with exceptions as needed. This year, groups will be informed that allocations currently outstanding cannot be carried over to the spring unless requested, so we have money to give out to new requests in the spring.

MA: question about carryover. Didn’t some groups request whole-year funding?

DS: groups that asked for funding for certain spring events will be automatically carried over.
MA: so just anything that wasn’t used in the fall will not be carried over?

DS: correct.

YM: congratulations to Marco in joining Moot Court Board through Hastie, who was a semifinalist! Happy birthday to Allison on the 17th! Last spring, the elections committee came up with proposed guidelines, which turned into proposed bylaws for elections. We have nothing that says what type of notice is needed, who can vote, etc. This is now going through the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and will be brought before the SBA soon. The goal is to discuss at our meeting on 12/1.

MA: the proposed guidelines will be sent to e-board within the next few minutes.

YM: the Knight office now has a computer and IKEA furniture, thanks Sebastian for helping set it up! The goal is to use it as a student org office, but we need a printer, which requires a fund allocation. We want a step-up from the Starr office printer, which is more of a personal printer. IT recommended the same model, just a few steps up, a multifunction black and white laser. The proposed allocation is $550 for printer, tax, shipping, etc, and IT will help us order and install it. The printer would be used for student group events, and based on current activity, we really need it. Are there any questions or concerns about it? Anything over $500 is outside the discretion of the treasurer.

JC: how will groups get in the office?

YM: the same way they can get into Starr. A key will be available at library circ desk once the office is ready, so people can sign up to check it out.

JS: where is the office?

YM: across from the CT Insurance Law Journal office.

JC: is there concern about people using it for personal purposes?

YM: we thought about that with respect to both the Starr and Knight office printers, but we’re trying it on a good-faith basis. IT has ideas for monitoring printing going forward if we choose to do so in the future. The good-faith system has worked in Starr.

JC: this is an alternative to taking stuff to Kinkos?

YM: that’s the idea. It’s easily accessible and cheaper than Kinkos. We will actually also have fax access.
AL: is it cheaper than sending it out?

DS: not everything can be sent out; that’s for mass production, like journals or pamphlets. For small or last-minute print jobs, you can’t send it out. You can do it in the library at $.15/page, but that gets reimbursed by us too.

YM: we want to try it out, and it can be reevaluated if needed.

**Motion to vote on printer allocation for $550 – ST**

Second – AP  
Yes – all  
No – none  
Abstentions – none  
**Motion passes**

YM: the window was fixed in SBA Starr office. There was a missing cable box in Knight that has been returned. Next, our bylaws require that the Pro Bono and Public Interest Committee report twice a semester.

AL: the only thing Margaret suggested is that someone else sends out an e-mail about the pro bono pledge. They’re having a hard time gathering interest.

YM: what’s her last name?

AL: Martin. They have put the pledge forms out during PILG meetings, lots of PILG members signed up, but people don’t know what it’s about. Next semester, we want to think of ways to get it out there, maybe in conjunction with an event. If you’re doing an externship, and the school only requires a certain amount of hours, any extra hours over that requirement can be used for the pledge.

YM: is everyone clear?

DW: last year, they had a kickoff event, which explained the pledge and PILG’s programs that satisfy it. A lot of 1Ls won’t get paid this summer, so this is a great way to get some kind of credit for your work.

AL: we talked about that, and hopefully she will send an e-mail out. If you get school credit, you can’t get pro bono credit. During the summer, you have to pay for school credit anyway, so for some people it might still work out.

MA: a lot of people don’t realize that you can stay on your externship longer for pro bono hours. Maybe more information about the different ways you can do it would be helpful. Some people seem to think you can only get pledge hours through PILG events.
AL: will point that out to Margaret.

DW: did they do a kickoff this year?

AL: they did one last year as the first year. They got a lot of 1Ls to sign up through PILG. If you’re not doing your pro bono work with an organization on the list, it has to get approved, which is straightforward, but scares some people off.

YM: is the list accessible?

AL: believes it’s on the Registrar website.

DS: instead of a big kickoff, would they do a lunchtime info session?

AL: will suggest that.

AW: as a 1L, feels like awareness f the pledge is minimal, and is hearing some of this for the first time. A kickoff or lunch would be a good idea. Remembers getting an e-mail, but it gets blurred in with other PILG activities. Maybe separate the pledge from PILG a little.

DW: good point.

MA: is it mentioned at orientation? That would help to establish the pledge.

DW: Yam mentioned it at orientation, and believes it was formally mentioned. Last year, there was a standalone event for the pledge separate from PILG, and the supervisors of the program fielded questions. That might be helpful.

AL: will bring those points to Margaret’s attention.

YM: maybe start with another e-mail.

AP: what happens when you fulfill the pledge?

AL: you get a transcript notation. Some people talked about wanting to do more hours, but not a lot of people have hit 100 yet for them to consider this seriously.

YM: what about prize day?

AL: she didn’t mention that.

DW: they also do Ben and Jerry’s in the spring.
AL: idea to mention the pledge to 1Ls so they can do it over the summer.

AW: it was mentioned at some points, but vaguely presented, and we’re busy with other things; we need to have an event to make it as easy as possible to follow up.

AL: will suggest that. Hopefully we can work on this before the semester ends.

YM: if you have further suggestions, let Angie know.

DS: is anyone here against SBA paying for a luncheon? Maybe they haven’t done another event due to lack of funding.

[none opposed]

AL: will contact Margaret.

YM: bulk of this meeting is to continue discussing 50th anniversary event/scholarship. There is a more formal proposal on your handouts and on the PowerPoint. You can take the handout with you in case we don’t finish discussion this evening. The basic idea is to implement a scholarship proposal and event in the spring, to celebrate 50 years and bring back SBA alumni. The purpose is to form a scholarship from the students for the students, for leadership.

DS: proposal is for $10,000, to come out of our savings account. The idea is that we put in $10,000, and the Foundation uses that as an incentive for alumni to donate and hopefully quadruple funds. The $10,000 is non-operational funds, not coming out of our budget; these funds are leftover and built up over decades. We’ve been saving for many years now. The carryover in our checking is $18,000 and we have another $40,000 in savings, for a total of $58,000 in non-operation funds. Our savings account gets .2% interest, which isn’t a lot. If we put the $10,000 in a CD or money market account through the Foundation, we get 2.65% interest, which is $1,060 interest over a year. We are increasing the amount of money we make by $1,000 each year. The $10,000 is being used as an incentive to raise $40,000, which would spin off this amount of interest.

DW: we expect 150 attendees at the event; current SBA, former SBA, Foundation, board members, and student leaders. The priority of the event is to raise money for the fellowship. It will be a sit-down, catered event, with various speakers discussing the SBA. The final addresses will be made by SBA president and Foundation president. It will likely be held in April. The Foundation has discussed paying for the event.

YM: the Foundation has discussed funding the event in hopes that we can get donations for a scholarship.
DS: the event would cost $3,000-$4,000, which the foundation will pay.

YM: this scholarship would be unique to our campus. The selection committee members will be non-students, to be determined at a later date. We will discuss selection criteria, also at a later date. If we vote on anything tonight, it will be to pledge funds, with the idea of discussing details in the future.

JC: how certain are we that we can get $40,000, and what if we don’t?

DS: the foundation actually thinks we can get $50,000. The idea is that if we don’t make as much, the scholarship will be smaller. Now we’re talking about $1,000/year. If we can only raise enough to give a $500 each year, that’s what the scholarship will be, in which case we would need $20,000 donations to accrue that amount of interest each year. There’s time to do it and it’s not a lot of money when you consider some of our prominent prior members.

YM: the foundation is confident that alumni support this. We wanted to be more conservative.

ST: do we think we will get $40,000 right away, or in ten years?

DS: we put up $10,000 now to start paying the scholarship immediately, and over 10 years we will capitalize $40,000. By the time the SBA’s $10,000 runs out, there will be enough money donated that we will have a self-sustaining endowment.

ST: so our money is to start giving it out but not grow anything off our investment?

DS: yes and no. If we don’t put any money in, we anticipate that the alumni would donate much less. When you tell people that we are putting in funds to start immediately, it puts our name on there and incentivizes donations.

YM: the Foundation really wants a pledge from the SBA to indicate that students made the first step.

BH: sometimes things get lost from year-to-year; what’s the plan for continuity?

DW: that’s why we’re deciding to put up $10,000 up front instead of contributing that amount over time. By pledging the funds, we eliminate administration burdens for future SBA’s. The funds would be managed by the Foundation. The SBA could possibly change selection criteria annually.

DS: not sure criteria can be changed. The idea is that we set criteria now and staff will pick someone based on our guidelines.
DW: for PILG, each year they come up with a set of criteria and a point system. That will be subject to us. In general, the purpose of the fellowship won’t change.

MA: so we put $10,000 in, and the Foundation funds the event, we expect 150 people, maybe 100 alums. So if we want to get to a total of $50,000, it’s $400/person.

DS: over the course of 10 years.

MA: is it feasible to think that prominent people would give that money up front and not over 10 years? Then if we put it into savings we get interest sooner. It seems unclear as to time frame. Do we wait 10 years to see what we accrue, then give out a scholarship? Or do we start giving the scholarship when we raise a certain amount?

DS: when we put in $10,000, they set up the endowment. We start giving the scholarship this year or next year based on that money. Then, as money accumulates, when the SBA money runs out, the scholarship will be based on interest. We can set a number for the first few years that we will pay. Then, the interest will be used.

MA: can we, for example, charge per plate so we know what amount we will hit? Then if someone wants to give more, they can.

DW: if you charge for the plate we run into tax issues, because that’s not technically a donation.

MA: but you’re not paying for dinner.

DW: there are ways to do it but the Foundation might not like to put a price per plate.

DS: it’s an option to look into. The Foundation might just want to encourage people to come back to campus and incite them to donate.

MA: fear is that this is a one-time event. What keeps people donating year after year?

DS: the idea is to get a pledge at the event.

DW: the Foundation sends out updates to large donors, saying who got the scholarship, etc. There are different ways to raise money annually without putting on an event once you have the scholarship event.

AP: is there a requirement that the scholarship has to be put towards school? If they get a scholarship, would they have to use it for school?

DW: we could make that an option.
AP: has a problem with just giving someone a check as opposed to taking $1,000 off someone’s tuition.

DW: when you get a scholarship, it doesn’t necessarily go towards school. There’s no real way of ensuring what it goes to.

DS: if we do a tuition reimbursement, it might be feasible. We could also do a book reimbursement.

AP: why don’t we just make it so that before you pay tuition, the bursar has already discounted your tuition?

DW: you can still take out loans to offset that.

BD: this isn’t a need-based scholarship and not everyone takes out loans to pay for their tuition. Unless we make need a criteria, we can’t require people to put it towards tuition. There might be people very deserving of the award who don’t pay tuition, but can put the scholarship towards childcare or rent. The criteria will be determined later but that needs to be kept in mind.

FR: families have a higher cost of attendance so it’s kind of calculated into cost.

DW: it’s not a need-based scholarship. Wouldn’t want to limit what you can use the money for.

ST: we’re not giving scholarships to kids who will blow the money. We’re all in professional school, and if people want to use the money to pay rent, they should be able to.

MA: it’s incorrect to say that scholarships come off your tuition. They usually just cut you a check. You can take out loans for tuition but you still have cost of living, which also merits scholarship. There are criteria to meet, so we’re not giving it to someone who will blow the money at Half Door. The criteria can definitely be worked out later.

YM: now we want to emphasize talking about the pledge, criteria will be a lengthy discussion for later.

AW: generally agree with most sentiments, but criteria should be decided soon, to market to alumni.

YM: duly noted.
DW: generally, the consensus is that it will go to an upper class student, not academic or need-based, but based on leadership and contributions to the law school community, and the selection committee will be non-students.

JS: what time of year will it be given out?

DW: envisions spring.

YM: that’s a detail we need to figure out.

DW: if it goes out in the fall, people would apply the previous spring.

YM: we have to talk to the Foundation about that as well.

MA: bothered by the non-student committee requirement. How can the SBA ensure that a committee is following the guidelines if there’s no SBA member there?

DW: we get to pick the people on the committee.

MA: there’s a difference between the SBA picking people and having SBA just represented in the room.

YM: question becomes can we have someone there not as a voting member. The voting is mostly the problematic part.

DS: concern about students is that we will just pick our friends. There’s enough control if we pick the criteria and the people on the board, and if there’s a problem, we can amend those.

DW: we’re going to be picking faculty and staff, who might not be accessible to bribes and gifts.

MA: we’re the organization it’s named after, and the ultimate selection should be related to us somehow.

AW: has any thought been given to have more than one scholarship recipient?

DS: that’s one of the criteria that we can figure out. We can give out two $500 awards, four $250 awards – all options.

BP: concern about students selecting recipients.

ML: will the money we put into this run out, or be phased out of the endowment?
DS: we will put in $10,000 to start giving it out today. If our money runs out, it’s still the SBA scholarship, even though our funding has been used. We’re setting it up to get it started.

ML: if we hit our fundraising goal, do we get our money back?

DS: not sure we can do that. The more that gets put in, the more we have to award scholarships. So if we put $10,000 in, and say we will give $1,000/year, donations will build up. Say we only get $20,000; we will only get $500/year. At the end of 10 years, we will have $40,000 endowed, and will have given out the money we initially invested, but now the endowment is self-sustaining.

MA: question about the numbers. Last year, a Foundation representative said they were having problems getting donations. Where are they getting their $50,000 estimate?

AL: the Foundation will still be raising money for other things too, so we’re asking them to raise more, and they’re already having a hard time. Alumni who would donate to this fund are probably already donating to the Foundation to begin with.

DW: the Foundation did say that some alumni might donate to this rather than the general fund. Maybe alumni generally donate $1,000/year already, and maybe they will designate some of this to the SBA fund. Having another way of soliciting funds is always a plus.

MA: doesn’t this take money from other students?

DW: matter of opinion. The money is still coming into a fund; the only difference is how funds are used.

DS: Bruce Adams said that could happen, but they are hopeful that alums will say they already give $1,000 and will now pledge an additional $10,000 over ten years to the SBA fund. The hope is that it won’t detract from the Foundation fund, but it might.

AL: doubts that it won’t detract from other Foundation fundraising. Has a hard time believing that because someone was an SBA alumnus that they will want to donate on top of whatever they already donate. The economy sucks, and we already have a hard time raising money.

DS: we’re also hosting an event on campus, not just sending out a mailer. Think of it like a reunion; you’re more likely to donate.

AW: we’re targeting subsections of alumni. We have no way to make sure future alumni will want to donate, especially if this is a one-time event.
DS: we’re not asking for donations to continue the fund after we have it set up. We want to reach a certain amount in hopes that the interest will make it self-sustaining. If we reach $20,000 donations, we can give $500/year.

JC: if all that happens is that we give 10 scholarships, and that’s all that happens, that’s not such a bad thing. We’re wasting money on furniture and events, which isn’t necessarily a problem. Over ten years anything could change, but we can still guarantee that we gave $10,000 to hopefully start something but at least we can give ten scholarships. We blow money on many things, but this is very worthwhile.

YM: other law schools do have SBA scholarships, and this wouldn’t be such a new thing. There is benefit for your resume as well, so it’s good for the students who receive it.

BD: worst case scenario, we give out scholarships for ten years. Maybe after ten years, the next SBA will want to donate $10,000 again. Even if we don’t raise anything, we’re not earning any interest on our account as it stands. We can at least do something good with out money instead of letting it sit around.

AP: if we give 10 scholarships over 10 years, we’re doing what people complained about with PILG. The student body will look at us and say that we’re doing what we all complained about last year.

DW: it’s not the same. PILG funds come from our operating budget, this is coming from out STIF account. This is excess money that we have each year, which is why it’s a worthy cause to see if we can raise money, rather than just blowing the money on an event.

AP: but the sentiment of the student body is that if we have $40,000, why do we pay so much in student fees each semester? We pay $82/semester when we now have $40,000 in the account. There’s nothing we can do about it, but some of the other money should then be used for other things around campus.

DS: there are multiple reasons for the STIF account. It’s a rainy day fund. We can argue all year how much it should be. We also use it for capital improvements and occasionally emergency short-term student loans.

MA: the general sentiment seems to be that people are worried about management of the fund moving forward. Confused as to why we can’t shoot to just put in more funds now, like we give $40,000, that way we can start earning interest each year. Concern is that we’re thinking so far down the road.

DS: has already asked to put funds into a CD to get more interest, but we can only store funds in our state-interest savings account. We’re bound to that. If we give it to the
Foundation, they can put it into an interest-bearing account, but we can’t get it back from the Foundation after we give it. We’re taking the risk of getting donations, but it would put off a scholarship for years to come. We have the money to risk, and it won’t effect our current operations. Maybe an issue would come up, but we could handle it.

YM: doesn’t want to quash discussion, but we can move for a vote if we’re ready.

DW: would it be helpful to have a Foundation rep come discuss this?

AL: would like to know what their plan is to raise the funds.

DW: because we only have one meeting left, we would have to do it then. We want to be able to at least pledge the funds.

MA: did we approach them or they approach us?

YM: they approached us, we ignored them, and then we approached them. It was between SBA administrations.

DW: the anniversary idea came from us, the fundraising potential came from them.

**Motion to close discussion – JC**
Second – FP
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
*Motion passes*

**Motion to allocate $10,000 to pledge to the Foundation for this scholarship, conditional on SBA’s final approval of selection criteria – DS**
Second – JC
Yes – 19
No – none
Abs – 3
*Motion passes*

ST: will wait until next meeting for the facilities report.

YM: next meeting is Wednesday, 12/1. Needs all committee updates at that meeting. We also need to talk about formation of student groups. Election committee bylaws will be sent out before next meeting.

**Motion to adjourn meeting – MA**
Second – ST
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes
University of Connecticut School of Law
Student Bar Association (SBA) Meeting
12 01 2010, 9:30 PM, Library 202

Attendance (absences in strikeouts):

Executive Board:
Yamuna Menon, YM, President
DeVaughn Ward, DW, Vice President
Bethany DiMarzio, BD, Secretary
David Shufrin, DS, Treasurer

Class Representatives:
1L Day - Francisco Russo, FR
1L Day - Brynn Cullen, BC
1L Day - Matt Loftus, ML
1L Day - Patricia Pernes, PP
1L Evening - Franklin Perry, FP
1L Evening - Alex Wing, AW
2L Day - Blake Holler, BH
2L Day - Sebastian Tornatore, ST
2L Day - Allison Pannozzo, AP
2L Day - Mike Barrese, MB
3L Day - Zohaib "Z" Rasheed, ZR
3L Day - Angie Lachhman, AL
3L Day - Jeff Chase, JC
3L Day - Jon Schaefer, JS
LLM - Yousef Abdul Latif, YL
Upperclass Evening - Marco Allocca, MA
Upperclass Evening - Dan Csuka, DC
Upperclass Evening - Jeff Kanca, JK
Upperclass Evening - BJ Pivonka, BP

Also in Attendance:
ABA Representative - Matt Zagaja, MZ
Advisor - Jane Therfield Brown, JB
Diversity Committee Members
YM: call to order 9: 31 PM.

Motion to begin meeting – ST
Second – MA
Yes – all but two
No – two
Abstentions – none
Motion Passes

YM: public comment?

[no comment]

BD: recently sent out minutes for our 11/10 meeting. Any questions or comments?

[no comment]

Motion to approve 11/10 minutes – BD
Second – BH
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

DW: we just had our holiday gathering, it was pretty well attended. Upcoming, we have our “midnight breakfast” on 12/13, 9:30 – 11:00 PM. Exam coffee starts 12/13 and will run until our $1,500 budget runs out. You can get a small coffee, hot cocoa, or tea, one cup per person per visit. Please notify the cashier that you are taking the beverage. An e-mail will go out next week alerting the students. Happy holidays!

DS: everything is good money-wise. Some student groups either haven’t gotten in their reimbursements or aren’t holding events. You will get an e-mail soon about budgeting deadlines for next semester. If groups want to carry money over to next semester, they will need to notify DS; an e-mail will go out to that effect.

BD: can everyone please e-mail me your spring semester schedule no later than the second week of January? Earlier is better.

FR: 1Ls will be in moot court in January during the evening, is this going to be a problem?

BD: it shouldn’t be a problem; our first meeting probably will not be until after moot court.
YM: the goal is to have our first meeting the last week of January, which should be the last week of moot court.

BD: if you have to miss an SBA meeting for moot court, it will be an excused absence, just let me know in advance.

YM: will send out a semester-end update tomorrow, which is a recap to tell the students what we’ve been working on. You got faculty committee updates by e-mail, which are attached to these minutes (see below). Bruce Adams had asked to come speak about the class gift campaign, but was unable to attend; if you have any questions about it, please contact him. Tonight, we would also like to swear in our new rep, Matt Loftus.

[Matt Loftus is sworn in as a rep]

YM: we look forward to having Matt join us. Now, it is finally time to give ST the floor for a facilities committee update.

ST: library lounge: we need one more area rug for under the game table, we just need a model name. We will get the rug from Lowe’s, which is where the original rugs are from. We also need new or more decorations. The school has a bunch of paintings that aren’t being used, or we can try to get student paintings. If anyone likes interior design or wants to look through that the school has, let ST know.

[AP and DW volunteer]

ST: lockers went out. We donated two lockers to the PILG auction, only one of which has been claimed. Maybe the other was unpurchased, but we’re not sure. We have about three empty lockers out of the original 48.

YM: there was talk about reserving a locker for individuals with disabilities?

ST: JB, is this a good idea? We’ve been looking into it for spring semester.

JB: definitely keep one temporarily for spring semester, when people tend to come back from skiing trips on crutches. It’s always good to have at least one lower locker available in the spring for people who need accommodations.

ST: will send out an e-mail saying that people can return their lockers for the spring semester if they’re not using it, otherwise they’re welcome to keep their locker. We can then have another lottery with any returned lockers. We also talked about resetting combinations, which will be explored over the summer.

JS: we got one quote for an outside bench, which was a little high. The administration has expressed willingness to chip in for the bench, although we’re not sure of the
amount yet, but they want to match what we already have outside. This is for the big
tree by Starr hall, and it would be a circular bench around the tree. Will get more
quotes and see how much administration will contribute.

ST: the facilities committee talked about renovating Knight lounge. We want to make it
more conducive to people hanging out in there, and get a flat screen TV on the wall.
Blake is looking into TV prices.

BH: there will probably be good sales after Christmas. We’re looking at 50” or above.
They are pretty affordable right now, around $800-900, which is what we’re looking to
spend. Will look into it again closer to when we figure out what we want to do.

YM: 720 or 1040?

BH: we’re looking at a 55” 1080P 120 Hz flat screen for $800 from Wal-Mart right now.

DS: replacing furniture or just TV?

ST: we’re thinking we might keep the couches, but replace tables and the fluffy
ottoman. Want to put up a locked display case, so we can show SBA announcements,
and an unlocked side of the display case for student groups. We want to look into that
weird corkboard thing. Maybe we can get rid of it and put up two corkboards on
windows. The shades are always closed on the hallway anyway. We also want to look
into upgrading that counter area; the microwaves and faucet are a problem and need to
be cleaned up a little. We want to make the room make more sense. We also talked
about a game table (combination billiards/air hockey/ping pong). There is a space
constraint issue, because we need space for sponsors to come table on campus, but we
will take ideas. If anyone has any ideas as to a better way to do mailboxes, please feel
free to mention them.

YM: open student mailboxes are a concern, because some communications are
confidential. The concern came up with respect to students being able to take what
they want from open mailboxes.

ST: the way we currently do it is the only way we can do it right now, since we don’t
have a student mail system on campus. If anyone has any better ideas, from undergrad
or work experience, please share.

AP: why do we put reimbursement checks in mailboxes? Can’t they be held in the SBA
office and picked up there, or can financial aid hold it?

YM: we can’t keep checks for pickup in the SBA office, because people might not be able
to staff the office to keep it open enough.
AP: can we do it on a case-by-case basis, so if someone has a problem with the mailboxes, they can arrange to pick up their checks elsewhere?

DS: it’s also used a lot by teachers and TAs, so it’s not just SBA using the mailboxes.

JB: we send a lot of communications to students. The administration has been discussing this and will share ideas with ST.

BP: there is still plenty of space in the library if we want a game table between the two lounges, or we could move BarBri and other tabling to a different space.

MA: if the administration uses mailboxes for confidential information, are they willing to buy locked mailboxes and install them? Maybe UConn Storrs can send over locked mailboxes that they purchased and went unused.

JB: there has been much discussion over whether we need the boxes or if students will just hand out mail in a mailroom. Other law schools are not as paperless as we are, which is why they have better mailbox systems. We definitely should talk about mailboxes.

YM: please join the facilities committee to let them know what your ideas are.

ST: finally, the facilities committee had the idea of putting a monitor in the library for scrolling on-campus announcements, so people can be informed of events, but we’re not sure of how that technology works.

JB: we have a flat screen and are working on this now, let’s talk about it.

YM: the facilities committee has been working a lot. Their updates are subject to facilities here to make sure the projects can all be done. For now, these are just preliminary thoughts.

JB: there has been a change in e-mail protocol. We’re moving towards not using the student list at all, or the individual class lists in place of the student list. We’re moving towards a once weekly digest. Students frequently complain about the amount of e-mail they receive, as well as faculty. The response has been incredibly positive so far. You will send everything to Joan Tsang by Friday at 5, and the digest will be sent out by Monday morning. It’s much better than constant e-mails. We’re taking back the calendar portion of student events and the student events list into student affairs, so everything will be coordinated. We’re trying to figure out personnel to handle things like a flat-screen with scrolling announcements, to lessen the amount of e-mails you receive. By this time next semester, hopefully things will be much easier. SBA is allowed to e-mail in limited quantities, as are administrative offices. If you forget an
event and it has to go out, e-mail JB and she will get it out. Feel free to ask questions. There has been a lot of positive feedback thus far. We’re going to give it a shot.

MZ: there’s a student event calendar. Is this useful for people to use with the digest?

JB: which calendar?

MZ: the MHS software calendar.

JB: you can look at this calendar a lot of ways, including looking at student events.

MZ: are student group leaders going to monitor attendance to see the impact of the digest?

JB: hopes so. You can still send out e-mails on TWEN or send e-mails to specific people you know will come, rather than the whole student body.

MA: how does this affect SBA members running for elections? Can they send out e-mails?

JB: it will have to go through SBA, and the elections committee would have to talk about how much e-mail can go out. Hopefully there will be more forums for this type of communication than SBA e-mails.

YM: for clarification there are informational e-mails saying when and how you vote, and campaign e-mails. The SBA can send informational e-mails. The campaign e-mails should probably go to the community list.

JB: this is the other big push, to get students to sign up for the community list if they opted out if they want to get messages like these.

YM: there will be kinks in the system, so we’ll work through them as we go along.

JB: e-mail me with questions about what can go out. JB can send e-mails to students for you, so if you have a question about it, check with her first.

YM: we have to do diversity committee chair and new member nominations, then will turn it over to constitution and bylaws committee. For DC, we need a new co-chair. The nominee is Amanda Johnson, a current member. Any DC member/chair position is subject to appointment by SBA president and majority vote by SBA. As a result of Lisa Rodriguez leaving, we have a position open as well; the nominee is Brian Hughes, subject to appointment by SBA president and majority vote by the SBA.
Amanda Johnson: has been very committed to diversity on campus. This year, has worked with Schmeiser to make sure we’re complying with diversity benchmarks. Has also organized a faculty diversity committee, and is moving forward with a diversity website, as we’re one of the few schools in the region that doesn’t have one. The DC nominated her for the co-chair position.

Brian Hughes: 2L, president of Lambda Law Society. Is excited about joining DC and taking part in spring events next semester. As lawyers, we’re all committed to justice and fairness so these events should be interesting to us.

YM: questions?

[no questions; DC members, Brian Hughes and Heidi Cha step out of the room]

Motion to close minutes for discussion and vote – BP
Second – MA
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

[Amanda Johnson is approved as DC co-chair, Brian Hughes is approved as DC member. All DC members re-enter room.]

YM: congratulations to Amanda and Brian. Although Lisa Rodriguez isn’t here, she did an amazing job as co-chair of DC.

YM: will now turn it over to MA to discuss Election Committee bylaw proposal. DS is passing out copies.

MA: we’re going through the election committee proposed bylaws first. MA, BP, and ST worked on these bylaws as members of the constitution and bylaws committee. Right now, our elections are not very good, because we don’t have bylaws to control them. The first section just reviews conflict with the constitution. The second part is definitions; we need this for consistency, and for interpreting the bylaws. The third part is committee guidelines; who can be on the election committee, who is the chair, etc. One important point is that if you’re on the elections committee, you can’t be involved with coordinating the election for a position you’re running for. Section four is candidate guidelines; these are rules and regulations on e-mails, campaigning, etc. Section five states that the SBA runs the elections for graduation speaker. It’s hard to know who will speak each year, so the guidelines say that if your division has a graduation speaker, that division votes for that speaker. So if you are a 4LE student and there will be a 4LE speaker that year, you vote for the 4LE speaker. If your division doesn’t have a speaker, you vote for the 3LD speaker, since there will be one each year.
The language in the LLM section is different because there are two LLM programs. The last part of the handout concerns how to make an amendment to the bylaws, which our constitution does not yet address. Any concerns?

YM: can we go over technical changes we made since we e-mailed the bylaws out?

MA: there were some grammatical and technical changes made since we last e-mailed it out. The section numbers were off, so we fixed those. We also created a way for the SBA president to remove someone from the elections committee, including the committee chairperson, pending approval by 2/3 of the SBA.

JS: it seems like if you’re going to allow 2/3 of the SBA to remove someone, why is it subject to the SBA president also removing that person? What if the president doesn’t view the situation as a conflict or a problem?

MA: the way it would work now is either president or secretary has to remove someone from the elections committee. We did it this way because it would be hard for the general body to know what’s going on in the committee. We need a formal way of bringing removals forward. Would have no problem imposing language that a member of the SBA could bring an action for removal of a member from the elections committee, subject to a 2/3 SBA vote. This can be taken as a friendly amendment.

YM: see section three, number 3. We want to change “the president” to “a board member”. Any questions?

DS: can we also remove language that a decision can be overturned by a majority of the board?

MA: the whole language will change if we do that. We will remove the current language and replace with something like, by presentation of an SBA board member, an elections committee member can be removed by 2/3 vote.

ST: there was some ambiguity, but is 2/3 majority vote by all members or by present voting members?

MA: most votes are considered in terms of quorum, so it’s who is present that matters. If we want to make an exception, we can.

ST: if we’re removing people from a position, it’s not the same as passing a motion. It should be 2/3 of all board members, not just present members.

DS: that can be a hard standard. 2/3 majority vote of those present is already a hard standard. We usually have at least 2 people absent.
MA: but 2/3 vote of the entire SBA doesn’t mean everyone has to be present. So if 2/3 of the board was present, and they all voted to remove the member from the elections committee, the removal passes. It’s not necessarily an attendance issue.

AP: can we proxy vote? If you don’t have people here, and someone is up for impeachment, can we take that into account?

MA: the constitution doesn’t currently allow proxies.

YM: If people want to look into making that amendment, we can.

MA: if we do 2/3 of the entire general board, the number of votes required doesn’t change. We have 23 members, so if only 16 people show up, as long as they all vote yes, it doesn’t matter that people are absent. So we couldn’t hold a vote with 15 people here.

AP: we’re getting into murky waters here, because there might be people who can’t make it to the meeting to vote.

MA: the real concern is that impeachment would occur during a general body meeting, which you’re expected to attend. If there was an impeachment pending, you should be there, especially if you have an opinion on the issue. Thinks 2/3 vote of the entire board makes sense.

ML: what about lowering the percentage of the entire board needed to remove someone? What about a simple majority of the entire general body? That gives more leeway for absences.

AW: wouldn’t the person potentially being removed also have a vote? Couldn’t that be problematic? They’re obviously biased.

MA: it’s not necessarily our place to recuse someone from a vote on their own impeachment. That person might think what they’re doing is not unethical and their opinion should be taken into account.

BD: for context, we haven’t had more than 2 people absent at any meeting this semester. We could easily handle a 2/3 majority vote of the entire board at any meeting.

MA: the option is to change the vote to 2/3 of the present voting body.

Motion to change language to 2/3 majority vote of the entire board (regardless of how many people are at the meeting), and remove the sentence after it, and remove “president” and replace with “a board member” – BP
Second – JS  
Yes – all but three  
No – none  
Abstentions – three  
**Motion passes**

MA: any other concerns on proposed election bylaws?

*no comment*

**Motion to accept proposed election committee bylaws – ML**
Second – JC  
Yes – all but three  
No – none  
Abstentions – three  
**Motion passes**

MA: more importantly, we have a constitutional position statement. Our current constitution is not very good. There’s no consistency of language, some of the articles seem to contradict each other, and there are no definitions. The most controversial part is how we amend the constitution, and that language isn’t easily interpreted. We want the SBA to adopt a statement regarding how the SBA interprets the amendment portion of the constitution. The wording isn’t good, but the constitution and bylaws committee has interpreted it. In order to amend any section of the constitution, there must be a majority vote of the entire SBA board membership. To change how we amend the constitution, there would have to be a ¾ vote of the entire student body. We are offering this statement because the idea that amendments have to be approved by the entire student body isn’t realistic. If there’s any question as to how to amend the constitution, we want to have this paper trail to cover our bases. Does anyone disagree with the position statement?

DS: agrees with the interpretation, but thinks it’s important to note that the constitution defines our membership as every student enrolled in the school. Every class rep is a member of the board. Every e-boarder is an officer. So every student is a member of the Association, but agrees that the language speaks to this interpretation in the position statement.

MA: student reps are currently the only voting members of the association. Every student is a member, but not every student is a voting member.

JC: students vote in elections though. Being able to amend the constitution by simple majority doesn’t make sense.
MA: the second part of the sentence makes it clear that it refers to the reps first, then the student body as a whole second. It makes the most logical sense to read it this way, and it’s probably beneficial to both the SBA and the students alike to read it this way. It makes sense to have SBA reps vote on amendments because we know what’s going on.

JC: we have bylaws, right?

MA: yes, we do, but it’s not clear how the bylaws fit in with the constitution.

JC: not trying to say it should be harder to amend, but this doesn’t seem to make sense.

MA: the words create a difference between the student body and the association’s voting members. The article doesn’t use defined language, which is a problem. Don’t see how we can get ¾ of the students at the school to vote to approve anything. We’re not trying to work around the student body. Nothing in the constitution affects students on a daily basis, but it does impact how the organization runs.

DS: the word constitution sounds like it’s greater than the bylaws, but it’s not really. Because at first, it was the only thing we had. When the bylaws were added, the standard for amendments was lowered.

MA: our constitution was last amended in spring 08, and we know the student body never voted to amend it, so our constitution has been interpreted as not needing a 2/3 vote of the student body in the past.

Move to adopt the SBA constitutional position statement – BD
Second – BH
No – one
Abstentions – four
Yes – all but five
Motion passes

YM: for the spring: first SBA meeting is last week of January. We will talk about the 50th anniversary proposal, and hopefully revise the constitution. Elections are a busy time for the SBA during the spring. We’re going to open the Knight Hall student orgs office, which is just waiting on a printer, and improve facilities. We would also like to nominate our SBA for an ABA award. Good luck on finals, and 1Ls, don’t panic!

Motion to adjourn meeting – BH
Second – MA
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes
Addendum

Semester-End Updates from Student Representatives on Faculty Committees (as of 11/29/10)

Academic Support
One meeting this semester. We discussed the academic support services currently offered at the school and ways to improve them. Specifically we discussed ways to make the services more accessible to students, more attractive to students, and ways to increase the variety and extent of the services. At our next meeting we plan to discuss what recommendations we want to make to the administration regarding the above.

Career Planning and Clerkships
Meeting scheduled for 11/29/10.

Conduct Codes
So far this semester we've met twice to discuss the informal and formal procedures for reporting student-to-student complaints and harassment. UConn (Storrs) has a robust structure for formal complaints (such as those relating to discrimination), which applies to all law students as well. However, the UConn-Storrs complaint policy is the only one in place for all UConn students. Meaning, there are some less formal complaints that require either informal or in-house attention. Our committee has identified the areas that we feel are unique to law students and the law school environment (for example, the fact that a student complaint about another student could end up an issue for the bar committee someday). We plan to meet with a member of the conduct office from Storrs to review how the law school might be more sensitive to issues arising on our campus. The policies around discrimination are very strong, but the policies around harassment may require a further look.

Educational Policy
We're still hashing out the minutiae of our individual externship policy. The way things are shaping up, it's really going to amount to better enforcement of the rules we already have, none of which are, in my opinion, overly restrictive or cumbersome for students. On one exciting note, we've approved a new certificate program in Energy and Environmental Law. It's unclear to me whether the program will be functional in time for current students to take advantage, but it's a great addition to our broad range of certificate programs. In the next semester, we plan to finish up the externship discussions, and work on clarifying the upper-level writing requirement and SRP process.

Evening Division
Recently appointed students to the Committee, trying to schedule meeting before end of semester.

Facilities
Has not met.
International Programs
The International Programs Committee has met three times since our appointment. This report is to briefly summarize developments that might be of interest for the student body and/or the SBA.

1. Exchange Programs
UConn Law has been trying to establish an exchange partnership with a number of law schools in India, primarily, aiming at an LL.M. exchange with Jindal. Currently the likelihood of such an exchange being set up in the near future seems to be rather small. If at all, we might be able to win Jindal as an exchange partner. Further, the exchange program with Barcelona, which is supposed to start in the spring term, at the moment is at risk because our partner university requires a certain language test, which UConn wants them to waive for our students. The exchange with our Irish partnering universities will not be renewed in the near future. In addition, the committee has discussed whether or not to continue the exchange program with SOAS (London) because SOAS requires UConn students to pay tuition fees. The SOAS program, however, will likely be available for current students. The International Committee is currently looking into options for other partnerships in England and in London in particular. Additionally in 2012 UConn will join a network of 24 universities, which will increase the number of exchange opportunities.

2. Visiting Scholars
UConn is considering charging visiting scholars. The committee decided that invoices could be generated to offset administration expenses. Most schools charge between $500-$5000/semester. It was determined that $2000 was a reasonable cost. The procedure will need to be defined further before it can actually be processed.

3. SJD Program Proposal
The International Committee is in favor of introducing an SJD program in addition to the two existing LL.M. programs and has discussed the concept with Dean Paul, who is to present this idea to the UConn Board. The advantage of a SJD program would be that it’d bolster the LLM programs without additional cost. The SJD is not supposed to be limited to international students bit open to all LL.Ms.

4. International Research Fellows
The committee decided upon introducing a special designation for international research fellows. It will be a three year designation which can be renewed. So far, three candidates were approved as international research fellows.

Library and Research
Has not met.

Pro Bono and Public Interest
The Faculty Pro Bono Committee has focused on two issues this semester: (1) trying to make the Pro Bono Pledge Program more accessible to students, and (2) trying to reach out to the private bar in order to give UConn students connections to practitioners doing pro bono work around the school. After discussing the different hurdles that we all see, both from the faculty and student perspectives, for students to get involved with the Pro Bono Pledge Program (not clear enough direction on the website, concern that they have to complete all of their hours on one project, misunderstanding about the flexible use of non-legal activities to satisfy hours, to name a few) we split up tasks to maximize our efficiency depending on personal contacts. We have had TAs speak to LP classes about the importance of pro bono work during 1L and have made contact with
the Pro Bono Committee of the CBA. In the next semester, we hope to work toward a more accessible website for the program and increased student awareness through general meetings and advertising.

**Student Committee on Faculty Appointments**

This committee was new for this year and continues to formalize the process by which students are selected to interview faculty candidates and the overall process of interviewing candidates. Groups of 3-4 are formed to interview faculty candidates. 9 students from all divisions (including the Chair) and classes have been selected for the committee, and members have conducted 9 interviews this semester. A process has been established to provide the student feedback in a centralized form to the faculty for review.
University of Connecticut School of Law
Student Bar Association (SBA) Meeting
01 25 2011, 9:30 PM, Library 202

Attendance (absences in strikeouts):

Executive Board:
- Yamuna Menon, YM, President
- DeVaughn Ward, DW, Vice President
- Bethany DiMarzio, BD, Secretary
- David Shufrin, DS, Treasurer

Class Representatives:
- 1L Day - Francisco Russo, FR
- 1L Day - Brynn Cullen, BC
- 1L Day - Matt Loftus, ML
- 1L Day - Patricia Pernes, PP
- 1L Evening - Franklin Perry, FP
- 1L Evening - Alex Wing, AW
- 2L Day - Blake Holler, BH
- 2L Day - Sebastian Tornatore, ST
- 2L Day - Allison Pannozzo, AP
- 2L Day - Mike Barrese, MB
- 3L Day - Zohaib "Z" Rasheed, ZR
- 3L Day - Angie Lachman, AL
- 3L Day - Jeff Chase, JC
- 3L Day - Jon Schaefer, JS
- LLM - open position
  - Upperclass Evening - Marco Allocca, MA
  - Upperclass Evening - Dan Csuka, DC
  - Upperclass Evening - Jeff Kanca, JK
  - Upperclass Evening - BJ Pivonka, BP

Also in Attendance:
- ABA Representative - Matt Zagaja, MZ
- Advisor - Jane Thierfeld Brown, JB
- Jennifer Cerny - Jen C
YM: call to order 9:31 PM.

Motion to begin meeting – AP
Second – ST
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion Passes

YM: Welcome back to spring semester! Public comment?

AP: Dean Crawford says she’s not scheduling rooms until the SBA budget is settled. What are the details as to how that works?

YM: Jane will address soon.

[no further comment]

BD: recently sent out minutes for our 12/1 meeting. Any questions or comments?

[no comment]

Motion to approve 12/1 minutes – BD
Second – ST
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

YM: turning it over to Jane, who will introduce our guest.

JB: thrilled to introduce Jennifer Cerny, who will start next Monday as Assistant Director of Student Services. Unfortunately it’s only a temporary semester position, but we’re trying to make it longer. Jennifer is a 2007 graduate and has recently been working at Conway and Stoughton in West Hartford for two years, and is now moving to higher education. She will be sitting where Donna Kasey sat in Chase 104 (Donna retired as of December 31). She will be working with SBA, journals, scheduling rooms, helping with events, running the student webpage, probably the weekly digest and events page. We are thrilled to have her! Please come see her starting next Monday. One of the reasons we were allowed to have this new position is because of Jane’s health issues, so Jane will be cutting down on hours once Jennifer starts, and we will also have Dean Schmeiser back soon as well.
JB: was previously scheduling rooms, but Dean Crawford has been doing so recently. We have had the same policy the whole time, which wasn’t followed last semester. The policy is to have one major event per week, and no more than two minor events per week. Minor events are those with caterers and IT. Major events are those with outside speakers and/or attendees from the outside community. We do this because there are a lot of events, and we don’t have enough staff to set them up. This policy makes events more manageable. Last semester, there were some weeks where this policy wasn’t followed, and facilities was overloaded. We’re now returning to the policy that has existed, but just wasn’t followed. Dean Crawford, Jane and Jennifer will sit down with all room requests for events, look at conflicts, and figure out if there’s too much going on on any particular day. We won’t just say you can’t have your event, but we might ask if you can look at another day, so we would prefer that you not make invitations for speakers until you know you have a room. There are major events already being planned that might have to be rescheduled.

AP: was told that rooms won’t be reserved until SBA declares it an official event, but the problem is that the SBA doesn’t give money until you have a room.

JB: before the budgets are settled, the room reservations will already be examined. By the time the budget committee meets, we will already have figured out the event spacing. If people have questions, please send them to Jane.

MA: if two groups reserve a room at the same time, what’s the procedure? Are there any criteria to decide which group gets the room?

JB: we look at when the room was requested, and then we look at what’s going on that week. If we have three events that week, and two are from WLSA and one is LAMBDA (totally hypothetical), we might say that WLSA already has an event that week so we might look at another group with a request for that day. We might also ask groups to combine events. We will do whatever we need to do, then talk to Yam to see if there’s anyone else who needs to be talked to before we make a decision. We usually give groups the chance to work it out before we get involved. This happens with other events, like faculty events, weekly. We know students are invested in events so it’s not fun when someone takes your date, but that’s just the nature of the place.

DS: generally, student groups have to submit their budgets before they know that rooms are approved. The budget committee has discretion to consider funding if a room was denied or if the group worked with the administration. The committee will make decisions on the information it has.

JB: we also have ABA site accreditation this semester, the week of March 28, which is once every seven years. We will continue to work on issues like this until that week. We probably want light events that week.
YM: if you have additional questions, please reach out to Jane, or Jennifer starting Monday. Moving on to e-board updates.

DW: Lunar New Year is on February 3rd. We also have a film night on February 17th, and a social committee meeting this Thursday at 5:30. We will discuss any proposed events and any ideas for events. If you have any ideas, see DeVaughn.

DS: monetary figures are on PowerPoint.

**Current Account Balance**
Checking: $32,482.22
Outstanding checks: $8073.05
Net Checking: **$24,409.17**
Savings: **$40,162.40**
Total Funds: $64,571.57

**Treasurer Discretionary Allocations**
$175 - PAD Mock Trial Comp. Reg. Fee
– (Half paid by MTS)
258.52 - SBA Starr Office Furniture
355.87 - SBA Knight Office Furniture

**Money Remaining for Spring 2011**
Estimated funds available: $56,050
- $10,654.80 – Carry-over from Fall 2010

DS: Note that $10,000 of STIF savings has been pledged towards the SBA scholarship. Discretionary allocations: there was a mock trial competition co-sponsored between Phi Alpha Delta and Mock Trial Society, so the total was $175 per group for registration. SBA Knight Hall Office is now up and running, and we put some furniture in there. Any questions?

*no questions*

DS: for fall budget, all the numbers are pretty much in. There was about $10,000 that didn’t get spent in the fall that we will now allocate towards the spring. Hopefully this means that the budget committee won’t have such a long meeting. Dates for budget committee meetings were handed out. Unless there’s any opposition, we’re going to continue buying the budget committee lunch for their services.

*no comments*

BD: office hours are posted online, without your names, for privacy reasons. One printed copy is being passed around. I apologize if you didn’t get the shift you wanted. If you can’t make a shift, please find a replacement; doesn’t really matter who it is, as
long as the office is staffed. You will notice that I accidentally scheduled office hours during spring break. If you’re one of the people scheduled during break, you obviously don’t have to do those hours, but please be amenable to picking up a shift for someone who needs coverage since you don’t have to do those hours. Any questions about office hours?

YM: these are one-hour shifts in Starr Hall. You can use the computer, and please keep the door open. Make sure you do the hours, because we kind of dropped the ball last semester.

DS: if your office hours are coming up soon, dress warmly, it’s cold in there.

YM: we already contacted facilities for this.

FR: where do we sign in?

YM: there’s a binder in the SBA office so you can sign in for office hours. If it’s not on the table, look at the bookshelf.

DS: it’s a black binder, says Office Hours on the front.

BD: the SBA Knight Hall office is open. Everyone in the SBA has their name on the list to check out the key to that office from the library. You just check it out from the circulation desk. The office is on the bottom floor of Knight, right across from the Insurance Law Journal. You can all feel free to use it. If you know of another student leader who wants access to the office, please have them e-mail me.

MA: any access to Knight office on weekends?

YM: not at this time. We’re working on getting keycard access to the office itself, but that doesn’t resolve the issue of when the Knight building is open or closed.

BD: any other questions about Knight Hall Office?

[no comments]

BD: the SBA will be holding an informational meeting for all students to talk about various positions on Wednesday, February 9th, at 12:30 PM, tentatively in Chase 110. There will be pizza. The executive board, Matt Z. and a few volunteers will give the students a feeling of what the SBA does. Looking for a few class reps who are willing to come share their time and experiences.

[AL, ZR, AW, MA volunteer]
BD: there will be an e-mail about this meeting going out over the community list. If you didn’t volunteer, you’re still welcome to come.

ZR: what’s the location?

BD: reservation isn’t confirmed, but I requested Chase 110.

BD: upcoming meetings for the semester will be Monday, 2/7, Tuesday, 2/15, Monday 2/28, Monday, 3/14, and Monday, 3/28, which will be the last meeting of this SBA. All meetings are 9:30 PM, Library 202.

YM: we didn’t have anyone sign up to be an LLM Rep, so we’re keeping the nominations open and seeing what happens. Yousef was a great rep and we’re sorry to see him leave, and wish him all the best.

AP: they don’t answer their e-mails because they don’t check them. Maybe someone can go to their class and advertise the position?

YM: we did ask one student to let their classmates know.

AP: e-mail Professor Janis to tell them during class.

YM: if anyone else has suggestions for how to reach out to LLMs, let us know. For clarification, all graduating students serve their SBA positions the entire year.

Announcements: since the last meeting, happy birthday to Blake and Brynn! Have we forgotten anyone?

ST: I never got cupcakes because I have a summer birthday. I want that on the record.

YM: Dean Schmeiser had a healthy baby girl, so congratulations to her. Welcome back Z, who is a 3LD rep back from abroad in DC last semester. Z headed up the campus safety committee previously so we’re hoping he can work with Jeff on that in the future. We put in an order for plates, cups, and napkins for student groups, which are biodegradable and environmentally friendly, without being more expensive than what we would typically spend. It’s not only for SBA events but also student group events.

YM: graduation announcements. If you didn’t fill out your regalia form, send it to Claudia Norsworthy. Graduating students, if you know anyone who can sing the national anthem at commencement, let Yam or Claudia know. If we can’t get a graduating student, we’ll open it up to the student body. Graduation portraits are also being offered in February and April, so if you want them, you can sign up. It’s not a cap-and-gown portrait, just business formal. Expect information via e-mail about that. Some of you saw an e-mail about the class gift campaign as well, which we wanted to
mention. Graduating students can donate their breakage fee. Now turning it over to Marco to discuss constitution and bylaws.

MA: thanks to DeVaughn, who pointed out a problem in our constitution. When our social chair’s term ends, social events scheduled through the rest of the semester are in trouble. The new social chair might be liable to run those events, so we need to figure out how that works. One of our bylaws presented last meeting got a little messed up, so we’ll bring it to a quick vote for removal. We’ll be presenting an amended constitution soon, and changes will be explained in future meetings.

YM: the constitution is kind of a mess, and the SBA will have plenty of time to consider amendments. It’s important that we discuss it and not rush. It hasn’t been amended since Spring 2008. That should be coming up soon. We’ll probably start discussion at our next SBA meeting and do it in pieces throughout the semester.

ST: for facilities, last semester we talked about the Knight Lounge project. We want to get something going before Yam leaves office. ST will have numbers for improvements at our next meeting, likely for a TV, fixing the hot water heater, new furniture (end tables and coffee tables), energy-efficient microwave. We want people to not mind staying there every once in a while. We’re also still talking about a game table, but if we do that, we would have to find a new place for Bar/Bri and Kaplan to table; someone suggested the Library, which might work. We’ll have everything for SBA consideration next week.

YM: asked ST for several quotes, and would like to discuss it and then vote. We don’t want to rush facilities upgrades, so we won’t rush an allocation.

ST: we’re also going to get decorations for the library lounge since the semester is starting. We’re still talking with JS about a bench as well. We also discussed mailboxes; if you have an idea for efficient, secure, cost-effective mailboxes, see ST.

YM: we will create two sub-committees. One is to discuss how a student group should be formed, what we want from student groups, what should be required, etc. This can be an e-mail chain, since people are busy, and will just be a conversation to come up with some thoughts on the subject so student groups know what we expect of them when forming.

MZ: willing to help. Went through this type of process in undergrad.

AP: can we have a procedure for what happens when clubs are dormant?

YM: can consider this.
DS: could also consider whether we want current groups to adopt bylaws, and if so, whether we will provide them default bylaws.

[MA, AP, MZ volunteer]

YM: so Marco, Allison, and Matt Z. volunteered. Yam will be in touch. We also need to form a subcommittee to discuss language that explains the kind of person we want to receive the SBA scholarship; basically, who will the scholarship go to. The subcommittee should create a draft so we can have discussion about it at an SBA meeting. Volunteers?

[ST, AL, FP, DS volunteer]

BD: elections committee: we will be meeting next Wednesday, 2/2, 5:30 PM, Library fourth floor lounge. If you’re not on the committee, you’re still welcome to come.

YM: next meeting is Monday February 7th, Library 202, 9:30 PM. We’re going to look at the Constitution and maybe discuss the budget as well. Will have more information about elections and the 50th Anniversary Event.

Motion to adjourn meeting – AL
Second – BH
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes
University of Connecticut School of Law
Student Bar Association (SBA) Meeting
02 07 2011, 9:30 PM, Library 202

Attendance (absences in strikeouts):

Executive Board:
Yamuna Menon, YM, President
DeVaughn Ward, DW, Vice President
Bethany DiMarzio, BD, Secretary
David Shufrin, DS, Treasurer

Class Representatives:
1L Day - Francisco Russo, FR
1L Day - Brynn Cullen, BC
1L Day - Matt Loftus, ML
1L Day - Patricia Pernes, PP
1L Evening - Franklin Perry, FP
1L Evening - Alex Wing, AW
2L Day - Blake Holler, BH
2L Day - Sebastian Tornatore, ST
2L Day - Allison Pannozzo, AP
2L Day - Mike Barrese, MB
3L Day - Zohaib “Z” Rasheed, ZR
3L Day - Angie Lachman, AL
3L Day - Jeff Chase, JC
3L Day - Jon Schaefer, JS
LLM – Laura Schmitt, LS
Upperclass Evening - Marco Allocca, MA
Upperclass Evening - Dan Csuka, DC
Upperclass Evening - Jeff Kanca, JK
Upperclass Evening - BJ Pivonka, BP

Also in Attendance:
ABA Representative - Matt Zagaja, MZ
Advisor - Jane Thierfeld Brown, JB
YM: call to order 9:32 PM.

Motion to begin meeting – DW
Second – BH
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion Passes

YM: public comment?

MZ: we’ve been having some issues with the weather, and the roads have been bad, but snow days have or have not been called when the roads are impassable. Was thinking that the SBA might want to look at this and see how snow day procedures work at other schools and the Storrs campus. Might want to ask student body for their input to be responsive to their needs. Students have expressed concerns so maybe we can work with the administration on this.

YM: thanks Matt.

JB: appreciates the comment, because a lot of time is spent on this issue. We can’t have the same procedure as Storrs for several reasons. One of the mornings that Storrs closed, they had sent their facilities staff home at regular time the night before, but our facilities workers were out all night, so our facilities were open because we had a clear parking lot. We’re also not bringing as many people onto campus. The other regional campuses might close due to totally different weather. We’ll never be with Storrs. Administrators have taken many phone calls because some people just don’t know how to find out if school is cancelled. No matter what decision is made, a lot of people are involved. There’s a lot that goes into it. The students are welcome to create a committee, but not a lot will change, because even if students don’t want classes, the ABA still dictates how many minutes per credit we have to be in class. Keep in mind that once you’re working, they’re not going to close the courts. This semester, we had two days closed, which we haven’t had in 15 years. This is an unusual year, and you just have to count on classes being held.

MZ: concern was more along the lines of unplowed and impassable roads, and classes not being cancelled. More information helps the students understand.

JB: it’s a difficult decision, but faculty often want the classes to be held, because they can’t make up the time. If there were a simpler way, we would do it.

DS: last Tuesday, I spoke to the Dean after hearing similar concerns from students. Everything Jane said is true. The one thing the SBA maybe could do would be make a proposal for distance learning options, for makeup classes and maybe snow days in the
future, for teachers to hold interactive classes from home and have students call in. We can recommend something like this to the administration.

YM: Matt, let’s talk about this more later. Any other comments?

FR: my tax professor recorded his class so students can access it. It’s a good short-term solution.

JB: we did record as many classes as possible.

BH: aren’t only a certain number of classrooms recordable?

JB: yes and no. A few have recording capabilities and we also have a few portable digital recorders.

AW: many people aren’t from CT or the northeast, but it would be easy to put reminders on the website like make sure you have snow tires. There are a lot of precautions you can take for winter weather, and that might help some people.

YM: we can initiate an e-mail dialogue. If anyone wants to discuss this, let YM know.

DS: the only problem with a recording is you can’t ask questions.

YM: any other public comment?

[no comment]

BD: e-mailed out the meeting minutes for January 25th last week. Any questions or comments on those minutes?

[no comment]

Motion to approve 1/25 minutes – BD  
Second – MA  
Yes – all  
No – none  
Abstentions – none  
Motion passes

DW: Lunar New Year was last Thursday. Heard it was a great event with a lot of food.

YM: 132 attended.
DW: coming up, we’ll talk about a ski trip. 3L reps, we’re putting together the graduation dinner, so your input would be appreciated.

YM: the SBA typically sponsors a graduation dinner. Even though it’s only for 3Ls and their plus-ones, it’s an opportunity for all students at some time to benefit.

BD: next meeting will be Tuesday, 2/15, 9:30 PM, Library 202, and we’ll be discussing the budget. Because the meetings are back-to-back, minutes might not be done in a timely fashion. As for office hours, there has been a lot of absenteeism. We encourage you to stick to the schedule because you’re not scheduled for a lot of hours, they’re not difficult, and people have expressed interest in visiting us doing office hours. The hours are published online and on the office door so we need to have the office staffed when we say it will be staffed. If you can’t make your hours, please find another rep to cover your spot. If you have missed an hour this semester, please e-mail me with a date and time that you can make the hour up, Monday through Friday and preferably before 6:30 PM.

YM: printed out a copy of office hours because people are saying they forget. We’re passing it around. You can also check the e-mail that went out or the binder in the SBA office. Please don’t e-mail Bethany to see when they are. Please be at your hours, because we’re not asking a lot of you to be there. Questions?

MZ: how are the office hours scheduled? Are they based on when people are generally around?

BD: it’s based both on representative availability and when students are generally available. There are hours for day students during lunch and evening students around 5 PM, as well as morning hours. If you’re not happy with your hours, you can feel free to switch with another rep. I tried to schedule a variety of hours that all students could attend.

YM: moving on to LLM rep special election. We have a nominee, Laura Schmitt.

LS: from Germany, second semester LLM student. Has some experience in working in the student body, and is willing to help wherever help is needed.

YM: questions?

DS: are you involved in any student groups?

LS: president of CAIL (CT Association for International Lawyers), which is the group for international students on campus, and is the International Committee rep for the SBA, as well as being involved in the social committee.
[LS leaves the room]

Motion to close the minutes for discussion – JS
Second – MA
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

[minutes are closed for discussion; Laura Schmitt is elected LLM representative]

YM: congrats Laura! DS will now do a report on the budget.

DS: the total amount proposed budgeted right now is $67,348.01. The budget goal was $71,798, leaving us with just a little over $4,000 remaining. We left this amount unbudgeted because we have a few specific events to discuss. As you all know, we have Diversity Week every year, and the budget committee received a lot of requests for a lot of events happening throughout the week. At the end of the day, the Budget Committee felt we didn’t have enough information to make decisions on a lot of the events. Many groups just requested a set amount of money with no line items. Requiring that a budget be submitted by line item is nothing new. That being said, we want to be wary of using up the remaining $4,000, as the Diversity Committee’s request for over $2,000 was denied. Tonight we will discuss Tara’s Crossing and TedX, as well as the ski trip. We’re talking about the ski trip tonight because DW has proposed the date for 2/20. Given that date, and the fact that the budget won’t be approved until the 15th, we wanted to bring it up today.

DW: a number of students expressed interest in a group ski trip. We’re currently pursuing which mountain. The SBA will be providing transportation and a subsidy for a lift ticket, which we thought was the best way to do it, not knowing who had equipment or needed to rent or would have lessons, etc. We will have a sign-up sheet on TWEN and will be able to negotiate subsidies when we see how many people sign up. The recommendation to the Budget Committee also included a food item, which we removed, and we decided to rent the buses for longer, to be able to maximize lift ticket time.

DS: DW is still trying to pick which mountain, but it will be pretty close by, possibly Mount Southington. A group rate highest would be $42 per lift ticket, so the SBA will subsidize part of that ticket cost. Questions?

MA: will the bus be available to non-students who buy their tickets in full?

DW: if numbers allow, each student will be allowed to bring one non-subsidized guest on the bus.
DS: guests might possibly still be part of the group rate, but would not be subsidized. We can work out the details on that soon.

JC: what’s the thought process on having a bus go to Southington? It’s only 25-30 minutes away.

DW: a number of students don’t have transportation.

JC: if it was a trip to VT, a bus would be convenient, but this is easy to get to.

DW: in social committee meetings, sometimes students say the bus ride is the best part.

MA: likes the bus idea. It’s logistically easier and it’s a good time.

YM: a bus might also help with equipment.

ST: if there are a few people who might not have gone otherwise, a bus might entice them.

FP: is the 20th a firm date? It’s President’s weekend, so people might be traveling.

DW: we don’t have President’s day off.

AW: worked at a ski mountain and knows this is a particularly busy weekend.

DS: the alternative date was the 27th, if people feel more comfortable with that.

DW: the issues with having it on a Saturday are proof days for journals and MPRE classes, which is why we pushed it to a Sunday. We also might be able to get a better rate on a Sunday.

MA: thinks this is a great event. A lot of students have gone skiing on their own too.

DS: the tentative date will be the 27th, pending mountain availability.

Motion to vote on ski trip total allocation of $2,900 – AL
Second – MA
Yes – all but 2
No – none
Abstentions – 2
Motion passes
DS: deposit for Spring Fling is $2,500. It will be on a boat, same as last year. We currently budgeted $10,400 for this event, not including ticket sales for estimated 250 people. We’d like to discuss approval for this deposit.

Motion to approve a $2,500 deposit for Spring Fling – MA
Second – AL
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

DS: will briefly describe Tara’s crossing. Professor Jon Bauer was heading this up, but he can’t be here tonight, so please read the handout on the event. MZ will then discuss TedX. We can’t really fund both events, and the current proposal from the Budget Committee is to do neither. Tara’s Crossing is a play proposed to be held on campus. A professional theater company comes to campus to host a play based on a real trial, inspired by a true story of a transgendered asylum seeker fleeing persecution and detained in the US. There were about six student groups co-sponsoring this proposal, but it was confusing as to what role student groups had in the event. The play costs $3,500 plus two hotel rooms, and we’re not sure where we would hold it on campus. It’s typically done on a stage, but could be adapted. We’re also limited by the company’s tour dates. The biggest concerns are being able to pull this off with the space we have on campus, and the day and time it would be held. There are a few weekdays available, and it would be an evening event, but there are a lot of classes running on the proposed dates. On Monday evenings alone, we lose over 200 students to classes, so it seems hard to say we can get a good turnout. That pretty much goes for any of these nights. The Budget Committee was concerned with who would turn out at such a steep price. The Dean’s office would be willing to put in some money, but they’re not sure how much. They gave the impression that if we put in $2,000, they might cover the rest.

ST: is there any chance of this going to UConn Storrs?

DS: it’s happened at Storrs before.

ST: maybe we can hold it there or co-sponsor it with them.

DS: that’s an option. Nobody has approached Storrs. We also thought about having it in West Hartford, but we usually have to pay there.

MA: we would have to pay for a venue at Storrs as well, even if a group there was co-sponsoring the event.
DS: the budget committee would still be concerned about holding the event off-campus when we are contributing so much money.

BC: when this was brought up at LAMBDA, it wasn’t discussed with the group members before it went into their budget, and there wasn’t a lot of interest in the group. If anyone would want to see it, you would think it would be LAMBDA, but they’re not too interested.

DS: PILG seems to be pretty into it, LLSA and SALSA also seem to be co-sponsoring, but overall it seems like groups were just approached by Professor Bauer and it got put on the budget without much discussion.

YM: anything else about Tara’s Crossing?

[no comments]

YM: MZ will now explain TedX.

MZ: TED is a conference held annually in California, where a lot of big thought leaders come to give short lecture-style speeches relating to a theme, followed by discussions. In addition to a big conference, there are local versions called TedX, which are smaller conferences. The idea is to give access to local voices in your community. You record the talks and put them on the TED website, and it gives publicity to the school. We originally envisioned this in the summer, and got a committee together, as well as got IPTLS on board. The original vision was an all-day conference, but after meeting with Dean Schmeiser and getting the administration interested, we figured out it was scheduled on Good Friday, which raises some issues. It’s understandable why the Budget Committee has concerns about that. At this point, the organizing students want to continue with it, but realize that it can’t happen as a full event. Respectfully requests time to put together a scaled-down proposal so we can do a shorter version during the week. There’s concern about the attendance, so maybe if we do a smaller proposal for a smaller event, we can do something mutually beneficial for us all.

DS: would you still be considering the same date?

MZ: would like to look at a different date.

ST: have you contacted any speakers or developed a theme?

MZ: the thought for the theme was law and the future. We haven’t contacted speakers yet because we didn’t have a budget.

DS: for the record, that’s the right way to do it.
FR: is this event going to be recorded?

MZ: yes. They would be uploaded to the TED website and viewable by anyone.

MA: Matt did probably the most work of anyone who ever planned an event. It was a great budget request and the committee’s concerns aren’t a reflection at all on Matt’s effort or the event itself.

DS: IPTLS is the co-sponsoring group, and they also have a lot of people involved and interested.

BP: why can’t we just move the date and keep the full event?

DS: the spring is filled with large events. Almost every journal has symposium, and there are a lot of other events basically every Friday from now until finals. Friday is really the only day you can do a big event like this. The alternative would be a weekend event, which is hard on administration and creates student attendance concerns.

ST: is there a licensing fee?

MZ: the licensing is free. We had to apply and the application was approved. The license is good for a year and expires in August. The TED people are on board.

DS: MZ approached me last summer about this event. At this point, it’s really just finding a day that fits.

YM: any other questions?

BC: would the amount requested be different if we did a scaled-down version?

MZ: the amount would be different, in that the food would be reduced, and the number of banners and programs to reflect the lesser attendance. Speakers’ travel is contingent on who we get.

DS: if the committee had fully considered this, we would probably have found a medium price between a fancier event and a more scaled-down event.

DS: any discussion on either TedX or Tara’s Crossing? The Budget Committee recommends denying both events. There were a lot of groups who we requested submit supplemental requests due to lack of details, and all we have left is about $4,000. The budget goal of $71,000 is assuming a 30% over-budget; the actual dollar amount we have to spend is closer to $55,000, but we assume that people don’t do events they ask for, which is historically correct.
AL: what are we actually voting for if Matt wants to submit a new budget?

DS: we’re not voting on anything, just looking for opinions.

BP: don’t we have school on Good Friday?

DS: the school is open, but there are few classes and a lot of people tend to go home.

AL: on top of that, it’s close to finals.

MA: there’s also a concern that it’s a religious holiday, which might cause issues for speakers, especially with Easter that Sunday.

YM: Matt, will you submit a supplemental budget request?

MZ: yes, will put it together.

DS: there’s one other Friday that might work, but there’s a faculty workshop, which precludes them from coming.

BP: and we don’t want to compete with symposiums?

DS: no, because that requires the same rooms as well as facilities.

DS: would like to close discussion on TedX and move on to Tara’s Crossing.

**Motion to close discussion on TedX – MA**
Second – ML
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
**Motion passes**

DS: any further discussion on Tara’s Crossing?

JC: Tara’s Crossing sounds interesting, and doesn’t think the space is an issue. Does have concern about attendance and support if no group is responsible for it. Sounds like a good event where nobody would show up. Would support it if people would show up.

JK: can we do this in Blumberg?

DS: we talked about it, but seating-wise it wouldn’t fit as many people as Starr.
MA: it also doesn’t have the stadium seating that Davis has. Starr is bigger than Blumberg, and also has a stage setup.

ST: we need to focus on lack of attendance between classes and lack of interest. It’s a lot of money for little attendance.

AW: there was a link on the company’s website that said the play is long, so you can’t easily see it before or after class.

DS: they might be willing to cut the length, but we’re not sure if that cuts the price. We think the length is 2.5 hours.

DS: we’re concerned that student group leaders might want to talk about it. Right now, the Budget Committee recommends $0 allocation for this play. Unless there’s any objection, we’re going to leave it standing, and when we vote next week, you’re also voting on the $0 allocation for the play.

YM: we want to give student group leaders a chance to speak next week, so we’re not taking any action on this today.

DS: unless there are any changes to the budget proposal between today and next Tuesday, you won’t get another copy, so make sure you bring yours next week or give it to DS for safekeeping.

YM: we need to get started discussing the Constitution, so we’ll turn it over to MA.

MA: these are just recommendations, so nothing is final. You received these changes via e-mail last week. It’s important to question why changes were made. If there are grammar changes, it will be changed in the final version, and we will take these as friendly amendments. We’ll address the biggest changes first.

MA: there’s a lot of ambiguity, particularly concerning whether the Treasurer has voting power in the SBA. The voting body is defined as SBA members elected by the student body, and the Treasurer is currently elected by the SBA, not voted in by the student body. We think it’s more appropriate to call the Treasurer the Chief Financial Officer. The way it’s set up now, the SBA, not the student body, elects the Treasurer. The reason for this was to make sure the Treasurer was competent, so the vote wasn’t open to the student body. That problem isn’t really resolved by election by the SBA. We propose that CFO becomes appointed by the President and confirmed by the SBA by a 2/3 vote. We’re making it harder for someone to become CFO, but we hope that it brings in qualified candidates. The Treasurer and the President should also be on the same page. The President has no authority over how the budget is spent, which is troubling when the President is elected to guide the SBA’s policies, but has no control over funding.
YM: the SBA account is the largest discretionary budget at the law school.

MA: this does increase the President’s power, but the SBA President doesn’t really have any power within the SBA right now. There’s no indication that the Presidents can actually affect anything in the SBA. Would like to open this up to comments.

YM: can we explain what the proposed changes are in relation to this?

MA: if the CFO is appointed, they would still be a member of the executive board, which would be President, VP, and Secretary. The cabinet would be the CFO, ABA Rep, and Parliamentarian, all proposed positions, which would not have voting power. They would be executive board members in that they attend e-board meetings, give updates, and have speaking powers, just no vote.

JS: the CFO would be a class rep?

MA: no, it could be anyone brought before the SBA for approval. It could be a rep, but you would have to give up your rep status to take the CFO position. Being CFO even now means you give up rep powers if you were already a rep. We don’t think there’s a problem with CFO not having voting power, because they should be neutral in funding decisions, and just make sure the finances are running soundly. We want to get rid of the political aspects of the position, and make sure the CFO is charged with making sure we can do the events. They would still chair the Budget Committee.

DS: completely agrees with everything MA said, but also thinks the Treasurer position is a lot of behind the scenes work. When you remove the Treasurer’s vote, he’s more disconnected from the SBA, and fears getting someone in the position where they’re not getting any vote in the SBA.

YM: the dialogue here is important for you to chime in on, which is why the SBA didn’t discuss this behind closed doors.

MA: it wouldn’t result in that because the CFO would still be budget committee chair and still have a vote there. The CFO is still the person who brings the proposed budget before the SBA and would still have full speaking rights. Nothing would be changed in presence; it would just be a lack of voting power. Outside that, the CFO would be expected to be just as involved in conversations. Their main focus should be to produce a sound budget, and it’s on the representatives to decide what’s best for the student body. The goal is to make the CFO just as active, just take away their voting power. If we leave it the way it is now, it’s still unclear.

DS: does agree that the Treasurer should probably lose the vote, just wanted to voice the concern.
YM: any comments? This is a substantial change. We can also revisit later.

DS: appointing Treasurer versus running for the position sort of stifles competition. If this goes through, in order to get a second choice, the SBA would have to vote down the President’s choice.

MA: it wouldn’t necessarily be voting down, it would be a matter of reaching a 2/3-vote approval, at which point the President would have to bring forth a new candidate.

ST: would it be allowable to ask the President to meet with potential candidates and decide who they wanted to bring forward?

MA: yes. There is always a risk that the President could always recommend a friend, but otherwise, they would have full ability to send out an e-mail to ask for interested candidates and choose someone. The President could even defer his or her power to the SBA to nominate someone. They just have to submit someone for approval.

DS: so there’s nothing stopping them from bringing forth two or three approved candidates.

MA: technically they could suspend the rules and have an election to choose one as candidate. The President should be able to gauge the SBA’s feelings and pick one candidate. This streamlines the process a little bit.

ML: likes the idea of appointing and SBA approval. Is that in keeping with taking the political aspect out of it?

MA: something we saw last year was that there were loaded questions about how we would fund certain groups moving forward. That was a big deal. This would be more asking that question to one person, and letting the SBA either elect them or not.

DS: a big issue last year was PILG scholarships. The candidates gave different opinions as to their position on PILG, and that gave a political aspect to the election.

MA: at the end of the day, it shouldn’t be about what the Treasurer thinks about your group or event, it should be what the SBA thinks.

AL: who counts in the 2/3 majority?

MA: the executive board and the SBA reps.

AL: what about the 3Ls who are leaving?
MA: the vote would be at the first meeting of the new SBA. The incoming 1Ls wouldn’t be there, and outgoing reps (graduating 3Ls) would be able to vote.

DS: the current Treasurer stays in their position until June.

JS: Marco, do you have any plans to run for SBA President?

BP: objects to that question as improper.

BD: whether the question is proper depends on whether the answer could be seen as campaigning or not. Reading the bylaws, students cannot campaign at any meeting of the student body, such as this one. Announcing that you are or are not running for a position could be construed as campaigning, which would not be permissible.

MA: will answer the question if the SBA agrees that they want to hear the answer.

JC: doesn’t think it’s appropriate to answer.

BP: seconds that sentiment.

JS: asks because if MA is doing all the work and proposing it, and giving the President more power, it’s pertinent.

YM: for what it’s worth, YM did also review this proposal, and agrees with the changes, and will not be here next semester.

MA: will answer if requested, just not sure if he should.

YM: gets a sense that people aren’t comfortable with that, so let’s move on.

DS: agrees that it’s inappropriate, but he can discuss this as an SBA rep, not a candidate.

JC: seems like there’s general apathy towards these proposals. Feels like e-board has a lot of control over this entire process and that nothing will get voted down. It doesn’t seem like there’s a good reason to change it or not change it.

MA: we did send it out to the student body, and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee isn’t trying to slip one by the SBA. We’re open to discussion and changes. We know nobody really cares, which is why we’re bringing forward the big changes.

JC: trying to figure out if this matters. It seems like everything works pretty well right now. Each administration is run differently depending on the people. Each group has certain goals, so even though the President doesn’t have official power, it’s never really mattered.
YM: we got some good thoughts here, and we’ll bring it up again next week.

Motion to adjourn meeting – MA
Second – ST
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes
University of Connecticut School of Law
Student Bar Association (SBA) Meeting
02 15 2011, 9:30 PM, Library 202

Attendance (absences in strikeouts):

Executive Board:
Yamuna Menon, YM, President
DeVaughn Ward, DW, Vice President
Bethany DiMarzio, BD, Secretary
David Shufrin, DS, Treasurer

Class Representatives:
1L Day - Francisco Russo, FR
1L Day - Brynn Cullen, BC
1L Day - Matt Loftus, ML
1L Day - Patricia Pernes, PP
1L Evening - Franklin Perry, FP
1L Evening - Alex Wing, AW
2L Day - Blake Holler, BH
2L Day - Sebastian Tornatore, ST
2L Day - Allison Pannozzo, AP
2L Day - Mike Barrese, MB
3L Day - Zohaib "Z" Rasheed, ZR
3L Day - Angie Lachman, AL
3L Day - Jeff Chase, JC
3L Day - Jon Schaefer, JS
LLM – Laura Schmitt, LS
Upperclass Evening - Marco Allocca, MA
Upperclass Evening - Dan Csuka, DC
Upperclass Evening - Jeff Kanca, JK
Upperclass Evening—BJ Pivonka, BP

Also in Attendance:
ABA Representative – Matt Zagaja, MZ
YM: call to order 9:32 PM.

Motion to begin meeting – MA
Second – AL
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion Passes

YM: public comment? Right now, we’re restricting discussion to non-budget items.

JS: a student said that the power strips in Knight Hall classroom are not sufficient and we need new ones.

YM: will make a note.

JS: is there any way to get wired internet in KT 215, 225, etc?

YM: will make a note.

AL: we used to have power strips in KT 215, but now there are none.

AP: the entrance in the Starr parking lot needs a Do Not Exit sign, because people are going out there, and it’s dangerous.

YM: sees what you’re saying. Will make a note. Anything else?

[no comment]

BD: we will withhold approving minutes until our next meeting due to late notice. Want to give everyone a chance to read them before approving them.

DW: film night is on 2/18, showing Dark Side of Chocolate. On 2/27, SBA is sponsoring a ski trip to Butternut, details forthcoming later on this week.

YM: for film night, food is at 5, movie starts at 6, and you can RSVP online.

DW: we’ll also be giving out details on the basketball ticket lottery system soon.

BD: our next meeting is Monday, 2/28, 9:30 PM, Library 202.

YM: one of our student groups, Club Basketball, won the WNEC law competition. Men’s team won and women made it to semis. Congrats to them! Wants to clarify who made the decision with respect to moving e-mails from students list to community list. People
seem to think that SBA made that decision, but we don’t have that authority. We did relay student concerns, but it was an administrative decision. We were not part of the decision-making. If there are continuing concerns about it, let us know so we can let them know. Some people have been getting e-mails about composite portraits, and we wanted to see if SBA was interested. This means that each individual in the SBA has their photo taken on their own time, and they are put on the same sheet. Are we interested? Photo sittings are next Tuesday and Wednesday. There’s no sitting fee to get your photos taken, and individuals can get 10-minute slots.

MA: is this only for SBA?

YM: no, all student groups can participate.

ML: it’s not just 3L’s?

YM: they’re offering composites for all student groups, not just 3Ls. Hand vote?

[general approval to do a composite]

YM: it’s self-scheduled so just sign up to have your photo taken.

Michael Habib: have any other group noticed diminished attendance at meetings due to the e-mail issue? LAMBDA certainly has noticed less attendance since we switched to the Weekly Digest.

YM: we’ve been hearing it in passing, but if student groups want to bring concerns forward, we will relay them.

DS: have you been sending normal announcements through the community list?

Michael Habib: yes, and we’ve still noticed decreased attendance.

YM: contact us any way you can if this is a problem for you or any other group. We have to hear concerns to take action.

JS: if we are restricting student use, faculty should also be restricted.

YM: we did receive inquiries and an e-mail about that, so we will mention that.

FR: are there limitations to using TWEN for e-mails?

YM: not to my knowledge.

FR: it only hits members that sign up for TWEN.
YM: right. Did everyone see our e-mail about environmentally friendly paper goods? Thanks to ELS! MZ and YM are going to the spring ABA circuit meeting and voting in some leadership positions. Quick update on 50th anniversary: we’ve been put on hold by administration. We haven’t touched the money until we figure out how to move forward with the scholarship. Will keep you updated. Thanks everyone for doing office hours! Next meeting, we’ll have committee updates, bylaws, and constitution discussion. Anything else before we move to budget?

[no comment]

DS: thank you budget committee for your time in creating the budget. We spent a Friday from 9:30 AM-7:30 PM doing the budget. An e-mail went out with the budget last week. We’re only going to hear from groups who e-mailed us that they want to contest their budget. Is there anyone from a group who did not e-mail who wants to contest a budget?

FR: what do you mean, contest?

DS: discuss.

Heidi Cha: SBA Diversity Committee wasn’t approved for anything, and submitted a supplemental budget an hour ago.

DS: we’ll stick with the groups who e-mailed for now and see how far we get. First, the SBA approved $4,000 to subsidize the ski trip last week. The mountain needs one lump-sum payment, so students will pay in advance for the trip (lift ticket, rentals, and/or lessons) and the SBA will cut a check to the mountain to cover everyone who is going. Although we are paying the mountain $6,000, the students are really the ones who are paying, we just need SBA to write the check. $6,000 is the highest amount we would need; we might not need to write a check that large.

DW: any clarification needed?

[no comment]

DS: any discussion?

[no comment]

Motion to approve $6,000 check to the ski mountain – ST
Second – ML
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none

**Motion Passes**

DS: we’re going in order of the groups who e-mailed us. WLSA is the first group. We will give each group two minutes to say why they are contesting the budget, and we will share the e-mail stating what the group is contesting.

AP: WLSA’s annual spring luncheon is our biggest event. It’s also very well attended by faculty. Last year we had about 70 people, 50 of whom were faculty. We have a note from Professor Levin saying that it’s a formal event with a big mean, which is why faculty attend. It’s usually meat, pasta, vegetable, salad, butter/rolls, coffee/tea, dessert, linens and glassware. Krauss quoted $21.50/person for the same meal as last year. It cost $18/person last year, but Krause increased their prices since then. Original expected turnout was 80. SBA allotted $15/person for 60 people plus 15% gratuity. SBA said dessert shouldn’t be included for this event. Krauss’ options at that price don’t include dessert, and the price was adjusted according to the LELS event. Krauss bases their prices on packages. The package available at that lowest price is not as formal as we like the event to be. The speaker is Alanna Rutherford, who was named Marie Claire’s woman on top, made partner at her firm before age 34, and is a phenomenal woman. We want to honor our speaker and have good faculty attendance. Asks that SBA support a $21.50 allocation per person for 60 people, for a total $1,485 allocation, which is a difference of $450 from the suggested allocation.

DS: budget committee looked at a number of factors in allocating $15/person. The biggest was that this is lunch, not dinner. Dinner events often are $21.50/person, but this isn’t the same type of event. Krauss may or may not be able to negotiate, but there are other vendors out there as well. Looking at last year’s LELS Hot Topics dinner, they had a great meal at $17/person, and the budget committee did consider that. Typically, when we have lunch events, we deny dessert, unless it’s just a few dollars for cookies. People don’t expect it and it does save some money. In fairness, since we cut dessert from other groups, we cut it here as well.

AP: wasn’t aware of the new policy of cutting dessert from lunch events. This meal is similar to what we’ve been having each year. Faculty come because this is a formal event. Doesn’t think it’s fair for this e-board to have an event that’s not up to par with what has been done in the past. Other caterers are in the area, but Truffles is $25 per person, and we don’t want to take a chance on this event.

DS: faculty may expect certain standards, but funding is for students, so if students are ok with a certain standard, faculty will probably show up anyway. At $15/person, you can still provide a good lunch. Most lunch events rarely go over $8/person. For pizza, which we obviously don’t suggest here, it would be $4/person. For Wings, it’s $8/person. For Truffles, it’s still not $21, unless you’re doing the same menu as WLSA proposed.
ST: who did LELS use as their caterer for the Hot Topics Dinner?

DS: believes it was Krauss.

DW: so WLSA feels like a $7 difference in price per person will hurt the event in that the quality or turnout will suffer?

AP: the quality of meal at the lower price is not up to standard and will impact the event. It’s not fair to the e-board and might affect attendance in later years.

DW: the effect to the budget would be $450 if we go by Allison’s suggestion?

DS: right. Total numbers we talked about last week: the budget goal is $71,798. The proposed budget as it stands is $67,348.01. The difference currently left to cover supplemental requests and any increases tonight is $4,449. We also have other items on the agenda, such as SALSA and Tara’s Crossing, as well as ACLU. Keep that in mind, but don’t base your decision on what’s outstanding.

JC: is it wrong to ask some groups to co-sponsor and donate their discretionary funds to this event?

DS: it might take some time and WLSA might have to reach out.

MA: although there are issues, let’s look at these one at a time, and base your decision on the issue at hand.

BD: does WLSA have any plans for discretionary funds?

AP: we haven’t discussed it yet. We used $35 today, but we’re not sure what’s going to come up. We usually keep it for an event at the end of the year.

DS: last semester, WLSA used $195 of $200 discretionary.

ST: AP, can you walk us through a lower-priced catering package at $15 from Krauss?

AP: the meal we asked for would be a choice of chicken, potato/starch, pasta, vegetable, salad, rolls and butter, dessert, coffee, tea, and soft drinks for $21.50. At $15, it would be choice of different quiches, platter of sliced fruit, salad, bread and butter, cookie trays, coffee tea and drinks. The other option would be chicken salad, pasta salad, mixed green salad, rolls and butter.

ML: is there anything between those two prices? If you didn’t get the $21 but didn’t go down to $15, is there a happy medium?
AP: these options for lower prices that I just gave cost between $15-18, so they do seem to be the happy medium.

DS: did anyone go to the LELS hot topics dinner? It was $17/person.

LS: they had chicken, pasta, salad, and cookies.

Walter Menjivar: DS, do you have the amount of money that the SBA has available to spend right now?

DS: we have $55,000 currently available to spend. Money doesn’t come in all at once, so we don’t know until the end of the year how much we actually got.

AP: with the quiche quote, that’s served buffet style, and with the meal we’re requesting, Krauss people usually serve dessert.

YM: at any point, an SBA member can make a motion to amend the budget or vote on the current proposal.

Motion to amend the budget and allocate an additional $450 to WLSA’s Spring Luncheon – DW
Second – JS
Yes – 5
No – 11
Abstentions – 4
Motion denied

Motion to allocate $260 additional funding and the Dean’s Office will cover the $195 gratuity fee – AP
Second – MA
Yes – all but 4
No – none
Abstentions – 4
Motion passes

YM: moving on to SALSA. We don’t have anyone here to speak for SALSA, so we’ll present the e-mail they sent to us.

MA: do we have their permission to show it?

DS: it was sent to the SBA e-mail account, so it’s public record subject to FOIA requests.
YM: we can paraphrase it if people want, but this is a good way for people to advocate if they’re not able to come to the meeting.

[YM addendum: I intended to clarify the process in which the Budget Committee requested inquires, rather than encouraging the posting of the email itself.]

DS: SALSA wrote to contest the hotel budget for their conference. They were allocated $200 for that cost. Budget guidelines allow $25 per person attending a conference for lodging. The idea is that SBA isn’t paying for people to go to conferences, but subsidizing it.

JS: so they want to double their allocation to $400?

DS: right. What they’re requesting isn’t within our guidelines. They want to send 8 people. Groups are expected to look at guidelines when making requests, and this group did seem aware of guidelines. The Budget Committee has been discussing whether the guidelines should be changed, but we decided that they are fine. We allocated $200, they are requesting $400.

ML: is this a group that usually uses their discretionary?

DS: they used half their discretionary last year.

YM: even if they have discretionary, can they use it to go outside guidelines?

DS: we’ve been allowing that this year. As long as it’s not something we can’t pay for (alcohol, uncooked meats), we’ll let the group do it if it’s reasonable. They could use the discretionary for the conference.

JC: do we ever give extra money for hotels?

DS: the difference is between conferences and competitions. The guidelines cover these separately. The idea is that conferences are networking. We have not gone outside guidelines for conferences.

ST: sees that APALSA got more money for conference registration and lodging.

DS: the guidelines read that lodging expenses for conferences are $25/person up to $250/conference. APALSA got $250 for lodging because they’re sending more people.

Motion to vote on budget as it stands – AL
Second – ML
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none

Motion passes

DS: moving on to Tara’s Crossing. Walter will speak on this. We did talk about this last week and we will get more details now.

Walter Menjivar: representing LLSA, WLSA, SALSA, SBA DC, LAMBDA, BLSA, and PILG, along with Professor Bauer. Realizes that this is a big budget event. Professor Bauer introduced this idea. The play is about an asylum, transgender, and political issues. Does everyone know what the play is about?

[general assent]

Walter Menjivar: it is a big budget request. It started out at $4,500, but we were able to knock the price down with the troupe. We were hoping that, since they’re already going on tour, we can get them to come to UConn as well. The asylum clinic is going to donate $500, and the Human Rights Institute is giving $350. The Dean’s Office is also giving $500. The concerns seemed to be about the venue. This is a traveling troupe, and they do perform at law schools. They’re used to adapting. The play was set up by doing interviews with immigrant and asylum groups. We think we can take care of venue. If it’s a concern, we can talk about it. The other concern is attendance. We do have seven groups on board. We’ve noticed that movies on Fridays gather a good amount of people. We’re hoping to make this a community event, which we know SBA doesn’t fund, but we think the majority of attendees would be students. We do want to bring in outside groups as well. If SBA can be flexible on the budget, we can get people to show up. Alcohol does draw students. If we can be flexible, maybe another group can cover alcohol.

YM: in the interest of time, asks that moving forward, other students try to avoid repeating what has already been said.

Michael Habib: treasurer of LAMBDA, which has discussed the play and feels confident that LAMBDA can provide 15 attendees from that group.

ST: Walter mentioned reaching out to the community. Are you talking about inviting community groups outside the school?

Walter Menjivar: yes, we are. If we’re concerned about low attendance, this is also of interest to the community at large.

ST: so we’re using the money for a community event, but enhancing the school?

Walter Menjivar: right. Anything we can do to get something positive to pop up for UConn Law on Google is great.
ST: has anyone talked to the Dean about funding?

Walter Menjivar: they’re in for $500.

AL: doesn’t remember Friday being offered as a possible date, and concerned about venue.

DS: there are two Fridays that would work – 4/18, which is CILJ Symposium, and 4/22, which is Good Friday.

Walter Menjivar: how long is CILJ Symposium?

MB: 8 am to 5 pm.

DS: there may be administration concerns regarding large events in similar spaces on the same day.

AP: Professor Bauer has been working with Dean Crawford about Friday performances, to see if other events can be held in other rooms to put the play on here. The troupe can also do a Monday performance between 3:30-6:30 PM. There are only 3 seminar classes at that time.

MA: when this was proposed to budget committee, it was a night event. Is that flexible?

Walter Menjivar: we can settle venue concerns. We want to set this up, so if we can get funding, we can work around concerns.

DW: understands that, but we don’t want to fund an event that nobody will go to, so the venue and date are integral to the funding decision. Not sure how many students will go to a play at 3:30 on a Monday, regardless of class.

AP: my point was that Professor Bauer has been working to find the best possible time. If the SBA wants to propose a time, they’re probably willing to do it to get the best attendance. Every event conflicts with something.

DS: the budget committee was working with other dates, but on every day the troupe was available, we couldn’t find a good fit.

Walter Menjivar: can we get funding conditioned on us finding a date? It seems like you need one before you get the other.

JC: which group are you speaking for?
Walter Menjivar: all, the groups involved, but is President of LLSA.

JC: is LLSA taking the lead on this, such as advertising? With so many groups, it might fall through the cracks.

Walter Menjivar: this is true. Walter will be a point person. Is passionate about this project. Professor Bauer is the faculty point person.

ML: echoes DW concerns about attendance and venue. This is a large budget event, so there’s a concern about allocating money to something so uncertain. Likes the idea of conditional funding. Also concerned about bringing in community groups, so now even if we’re getting attendance, we’re still spending thousands of dollars to host other people.

Walter Menjivar: made that point to show that the event will be attended. If we can get beer involved, people will show. It’s also good to do as a community. If we’re worried that there will be open seats, we can fill that in with community.

ST: with seven groups co-sponsoring, is there access to any of those groups’ discretionary budgets?

Walter Menjivar: those funds are usually tapped. Would be willing to look into it. We’ve negotiated the price down, and found outside funding. We would look into it, but can’t promise anything.

BC: we’re looking at a request for $2,450 right now?

Walter Menjivar: right.

BC: what other events have we done on campus that come close to that amount of money ($2,450)? What are comparable events on campus?

DS: thinking about Mock Trial and Moot Court dinners, which usually run about $3,000. Events that large are few and far between. We have off-campus things like softball, hockey that we spend that amount on.

BC: if we’re spending that much on a dinner, the students are getting their money back as a dinner. If we’re spending it on a play, and we’re concerned about turnout, wondering if we get the same return.

DS: PILG auction was $4,000.

AL: another big issue is in terms of space. The troupe has performed in courtrooms before. Have you discussed with them? Have they done a walkthrough?
Walter Menjivar: they’re flexible. Since we haven’t committed, there has been no walkthrough.

MB: this is student funding, so people outside the community is still like an empty seat, because we’re paying for non-students.

Walter Menjivar: filling seats with the community is a backup plan.

MB: doesn’t make things better because it doesn’t solve the problem of funding events for students. We said no to a diversity event with high school students because we would have been paying for the community. This is the same type of issue.

DS: has discussed selling tickets to the public that attends.

JC: seems like if 15 people from LAMBDA would come, that’s already more people that we get for some student events. A lot of student events end up getting people from the outside. Last year, ELS had an event with mostly practitioners, and it was a great success. It was good for the school and for ELS, and the students involved, even if student attendance wasn’t high. It’s a positive thing the law school can do. You’re not getting a meal, but you’re getting a play. Student funds don’t have to go to food to get your money back. This is outside the box from what we normally do. It doesn’t seem like there’s a cheaper way to get something like this on campus.

DW: had a conversation with BLSA president, who confirmed what Walter is saying. Agrees from a social standpoint that with seven groups involved, if ¼ of each group shows up, there are 35 people right there. The larger issue is the date and place. 4/21 is a Thursday, which seems like a good night. WLSA’s luncheon is going on that day.

MA: points out that all night students have class.

DS: WLSA’s luncheon is in the Reading Room, and there are concerns about setup.

DW: was thinking about doing it in Blumberg. The date is free.

DS: there are a lot of students in classes on Thursday evening. Evening Contracts (60 students), Evidence (70 students), Lawyering Process, Property.

LS: CAIL has a discretionary fund that won’t be used and we could probably dedicate that $200 to this event. In terms of attendance from the outside, can we give away tickets to law students and sell tickets to the community after?

DS: that would be possible. We did think of doing it off campus, but the concern is losing student attendance. Maybe we can get the Hartford Stage, but not on a Friday
night. The troupe has a relationship with the Charter Oak Cultural Center, which would be an option, but we might lose attendance and Dean’s funding. Nobody has approached the Foundation for funding as far as we’re aware.

Walter Menjivar: knows SBA can’t fund beer, so hoping to negotiate that with the Foundation.

DS: you can only buy beer with funding from the Foundation or the Dean’s Office.

AP: this is the first time so many groups have collaborated on anything. We’ve been encouraging collaboration, and it’s conflict of interest to say no to groups who collaborate. We should keep that in mind.

ST: we talked about this event in conjunction with the TED conference. Having this event would be no TED conference this year.

DS: they’re waiting until fall to hold that event.

Heidi Cha: agrees with the positive comments. Wants to commit Corporate and Securities funds $200. This is bringing something to campus.

FP: the evening class in general looks for activities to get involved in, but we’re precluded from attending many events. Evening students have voiced the need to feel included. Not sure if Friday is completely off the map in terms of options, but night students would likely support that. It hurts to support something but not be able to attend it.

BC: has a lot of hesitations that seem to be addressed here. The only thing left is the date. We’re willing to make things fit.

**Motion to vote on current allocation – BD**
Second – AL
Yes – 1
No – 16
Abs – 2
Motion denied

**Motion to allocate $2,450 funding to Tara’s Crossing, conditional on finding a date inclusive to law school – DW**
Second – AL
Yes – 15
No – 1
Abstentions – 3
Motion passes
MA: the date contingency should come before the general body instead of being approved by the executive board. The general body should vote on this.

DW: it will be hard to do that, but understands the sentiment, and agrees with that idea.

DS: April 8th, one of the two Fridays the troupe is available, something is going on in the morning, but if the administration is willing to do it maybe we can think about that.

YM: we need to move on to the next budget item. Anyone here from ACLU?

Dmitriy Doroshenko: ACLU has updated numbers for our event. We want to do a movie screening for the youth rights media panel, which advocates for better treatment of children. We were going to do a movie screening followed by a panel discussion. We also updated the request to approve the cost of bus tickets to bring the kids over to explain the movie they made. We included dinner and coffee and donuts after.

DS: budget committee allocated $383 to this event based on different numbers. We assumed Truffles for 25 people originally. The new budget has a few differences, including Greyhound bus tickets. A quick search of Greyhound’s website shows that tickets are $10, not $15.

AP: why are we funding bus tickets?

DS: it’s to bring a speaker to campus. It’s the same thing as travel costs for an attorney. This is different than holding an event for students.

AP: why can’t they pay it themselves? Aren’t these high school students? What’s the difference between this and Diversity Committee?

DS: the difference is Diversity Committee wants to hold an event for high school students, but here, students are coming to talk to our students about their film.

YM: is this being considered as a supplemental budget?

Dmitriy Doroshenko: was trying to send it in by supplemental deadline, but wasn’t clear on what the procedure is, and is contesting this.

ST: do you have a room?

Dmitriy Doroshenko: KKB.

AL: how does this fall in travel budget guidelines?
DS: within 150 miles of campus, we give up to $20 per speaker.

DW: when is the event?

Dmitriy Doroshenko: March 13th.

Motion to table to next meeting – DW
Second – MA
Yes – 11
No – 2
Abstentions – 4
Motion passes

DW: we have the rest of the budget to pass, so since your event is further away, figured we could table it.

AP: can’t he submit a supplemental budget so he doesn’t have to come back next week?

DS: yes. The last thing to do is approve the rest of the budget. Anyone want to contest any items?

[no comment]

Motion to approve budget as amended per tonight’s discussion – ML
Second – FP
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

YM: next meeting is on the 28th.

Motion to adjourn meeting – DW
Second – MA
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes
University of Connecticut School of Law
Student Bar Association (SBA) Meeting
02 28 2011, 9:30 PM, Library 202

Attendance (absences in strikeouts):

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1L Evening - Alex Wing, AW
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2L Day - Allison Pannozzo, AP
2L Day - Mike Barrese, MB
3L Day - Zohaib "Z" Rasheed, ZR
3L Day - Angie Lachman, AL
3L Day - Jeff Chase, JC
3L Day - Jon Schaefer, JS
LLM – Laura Schmitt, LS
Upperclass Evening - Marco Allocca, MA
Upperclass Evening - Dan Csuka, DC
Upperclass Evening - Jeff Kanca, JK
Upperclass Evening – BJ Pivonka, BP

Also in Attendance:
ABA Representative - Matt Zagaja, MZ
Jennifer Cerny, JC
YM: call to order 9:31 PM.

**Motion to begin meeting – DW**
Second – BH
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
**Motion Passes**

YM: public comment?

FP: who do you talk to about getting lockers in the Library? Not sure if this is an option.

YM: will give some brief background on locker discussion. The thought was to put lockers in the Library, but there was some concern about that. We have lockers in Knight for now. They can be moved, but it’s not clear where we would be able to move them to.

DS: the Library is very particular about how they look, what can be stored in them, etc.

YM: it’s not a closed discussion, but we’d have to bring it up with the Library if that’s what people want to do.

BC: Yam received an award at the ABA Regional Conference, the Silver Key, which is the highest award for law students.

*applause*

BD: sent out minutes from 2/7 and 2/15 via e-mail. YM noted a change to the 2/7 minutes, which was just who said a particular statement. YM also made an addendum to the 2/15 minutes.

YM: the addendum was in reference to the SALSA e-mail, it is very short.

BD: other than that, there were no changes. Any further questions or changes regarding the 2/7 minutes?

*no comment*

**Motion to approve minutes from 2/7 – BD**
Second – BH
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

BD: any further comments regarding the 2/15 minutes?

[no comment]

Motion to approve minutes from 2/15 – BD
Second – BH
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

DW: social committee had the ski trip yesterday, about 30 people attended. It was a great time and we only spent 1/3 of what we budgeted. Thank you to DS and AW for their help and leadership with this event. A number of students expressed interest in doing it again, either within the next month or next year. Coming up, March Madness is March 15, and Spring Fling is April 16. We’ll need help with both those events, so e-mails will be out shortly.

BD: next meeting is 3/14. At that meeting, new reps will be attending, as well as graduating reps. For everyone else, this is your last meeting.

YM: thank you to everyone who will not be in the SBA next year.

[applause]

BD: we will also be electing a treasurer at the 3/14 meeting. Nominations for that position open tomorrow and close Friday. On 3/28, we’re doing e-board transition. For office hours, we realized I scheduled people who will no longer be in the SBA to hold office hours this month, and those hours need to be rescheduled. Are there any volunteers to take these hours?

[reps volunteer to take open office hours]

BD: DC has been recording these meetings on his laptop, and it’s helpful for the secretary to use them to transcribe minutes. Since DC won’t be here anymore, looking for someone to start recording meetings starting on 3/14. Can anyone who will be staying on the SBA volunteer?

[ST volunteers]
YM: for this evening, we have the SBA Diversity Committee budget proposal, Tara’s Crossing, and select committee updates. Folks last meeting were asking about updating Knight Hall, and the understanding we got from Dean Crawford is that these rooms will be revamped over the summer. MZ had a question about snow last meeting, is there anything else you want to cover about that?

MZ: no updates at this time. It’s becoming less of a concern as the weather changes, but it’s something we need to continue to think about. Hopefully the weather gets better but we can’t control that.

YM: think about if we want SBA to take action on this and let me know. Knight Office got a second free computer from IT. This is the last meeting for non-returning reps. At our next meeting, we’re electing a Treasurer and continuing to discuss the Constitution process. We have a few things to vote on tonight, so hopefully we can keep comments pertinent and relevant. At any time, if you want to motion to vote, please do so. Now moving on to SBA Diversity Committee (DC) budget proposal, which was e-mailed to everyone Friday. Heidi and Amanda, are there any updates on any of these numbers?

Heidi Cha: still following up with Tisane on Continuum regarding the $800 room fee.

YM: so you’re still trying to get the fee reduced or eliminated but are waiting to hear from Tisane. Otherwise, are the numbers right?

Heidi: yes.

YM: will give DC a chance to speak on the budget first.

Heidi: an update on Diversity Week: it’s March 21-24. We did confirm speakers for the Kickoff reception, sponsored by the Bingham McCutchen fund for $500. The Day Pitney dinner on the 24th has confirmed Derrick Bell for a speaker. He’s renowned in the civil rights movement. We did get rid of the Mock Trial event with high school students. Any questions? Or we can go over events individually.

DS: not sure we need to go through each event. Budget Committee looked over this budget, and DC isn’t contesting any of the allocations we suggested. The only allocations still outstanding are the first and last events, which the Budget Committee didn’t look at. DS is fine with $863 for the first event. For the last event, we’re concerned about a room rental fee at Tisane. We asked DC for more details on the $975 number and elimination of the room fee.

Heidi: Rebecca Arnold is negotiating elimination of the fee. We’re also trying to change the time of the event up.
DS: since this is coming up pretty soon, would like to propose that we approve everything except the room rental fee, and deal with that if it needs to come up.

AP: why are we so concerned about the rental fee?

DS: we don’t pay it at most venues, and we’re already paying $1,000 for food. It’s not standard to pay that much for a rental fee.

AP: did we pay it last year for this event?

DS: the records aren’t clear. It looks like yes in one place and no in another. The check wasn’t clear either. Unless it was paid in cash, it doesn’t look like there was a fee.

DW: general question, how are you planning to promote the event? There are some large numbers for attendance, so what basis was the numbers?

Heidi: the Foundation and Michelle Helmin have been meeting with us for three weeks, since we’re waiting for SBA to approve the cost. We’re trying to push the marketing cost to private money form the Foundation and the Dean. We do have plans to promote the event heavily on campus, but we’re waiting for this budget to go through so we have an idea of how to promote the events.

**Motion to approve SBA Diversity Committee budget allocations minus $800 room rental fee for Continuum – AL**
Second – ML
Yes – all but 1
No – none
Abstentions – 1
**Motion passes**

YM: moving on to Tara’s Crossing

DS: Professor Bauer suggested 4/21 as a date to host the play, which is a Thursday. We’re looking at an evening event, probably 6-8 PM. At that time, Contracts II is taught by Professor Anderson, who has promised that students attending the play will get attendance credit for going to the play. This is the only professor we’ve heard that Professor Bauer has spoken with. This seems to be the least-worst date for this event. There’s not a great date, since there are other events on that day. The WLSA luncheon is at noon the same day, but the evening has been reserved for Tara’s Crossing, with no other evening events.

AW: this may be annoying, but most people affected would be 1LE people, because even if Professor Anderson is amendable to letting us skip class, LP is either right before
or after that, so we can’t go anyway. The fact that she’s doing that could be meaningless.

ST: Franklin, does this work with the evening students?

FP: it conflicts, because you get out of contracts, but still have to go to LP.

AP: LP starts at 8 so the play will be over by that time.

AW: a lot of students have LP from 4-6.

AP: but the play starts at 6.

MA: if Professor Anderson is letting people go to the play, she should podcast the class, because getting an excused absence is different than missing the class. That’s why a lot of people feel uncomfortable about missing class.

DS: that shouldn’t be an issue.

YM: doesn’t want to speak on Professor Anderson’s behalf, but it doesn’t seem to be a problem.

DW: so you have LP from 4-6, then class at 8?

AW: you either have one of two LPs.

FP: if there are recording capabilities, it shouldn’t be much of an issue. People would likely go to the event.

BC: the website says it’s 2.5 hours, but is the troupe willing to commit to 6-8 PM?

DS: Professor Bauer was aiming between 6-8, but didn’t spell that out specifically. He said 5:30-8:30. If we said this is a bad day, we have to send it back to find another day. There don’t seem to be any better days. It might not be possible to move the event to the fall since the troupe is on tour. We’re dealing with the best of the worst.

MA: agrees with the 1LE concerns, but gets the reason why the date works the best. The professor is willing to excuse people from class. This is the lesser of all evils. It all depends on if we want to do the event. This seems like the best date.

DS: not sure if other professors are willing to let students attend.

Motion to accept 4/21 as the date to host Tara’s Crossing – BD
Second – MA
Yes – all but 2
No – none
Abstentions – 2
Motion passes

YM: thanks to Dave for all his work and e-mail coordination on this. Moving to Committee updates.

MZ: as far as ABA goes, YM and I went to the 1st Circuit meeting at Harvard Law this past weekend. We met with other law students, went to presentations, and learned about resources. We’re going to try to do an event for ABA National Mental Health Day. Is working on this with Jane Brown.

YM: this meeting is for ABA reps and others, but there was a small group of UConn undergrads, from the special program in law. It was neat to see them there. We didn’t talk to them for long, but it was very rewarding. We got thank-you notes from the students as well as a professor who heads up the program. It was totally unexpected, and we didn’t really do anything, but they liked it. We hope to keep connections like that.

YM: moving on to Campus Safety Committee.

ZR: no updates for Campus Safety. Is trying to recruit individuals to take this over for next year. If you’re interested, please let ZR know.

YM: their last update was a draft proposal for improvements on campus. Encourages reaching out to new SBA to get involved on this committee.

ZR: any volunteers?

[MA volunteers]

YM: a Pro Bono Committee update is required per our bylaws.

AL: there’s really nothing going on. They’re still talking about making pro bono work mandatory, but that’s not really pertinent to us.

YM: any movement on pro bono pledge program?

AL: not really. We did get a bunch of CPILJ journal members to sign up. Margaret did say that having the forms out helps.

YM: moving on to Facilities Committee proposal.
ST: the proposal is for the Knight Lounge. Would like to add TV, new furniture, and a microwave. The Facilities Committee had a discussion about this today. You may remember that LLM students requested a ping-pong table on campus, and are willing to help pay for one. We looked at Truffles with Dean Crawford, but we don’t think there’s a spot there for a table. We want to seize the opportunity to use the LLM money while they’re offering it, so the best immediate place is Knight, but we would have to move stuff around. We can put it where the TV is now, and then put a smaller TV than 55” to the right of that, so you can watch TV and play at the same time. One concern voiced was that we have too many of the same spaces. The changes that we were proposing making to Knight Lounge would have been similar to the Library lounges, so why have another space like that when we can do something different. What are thoughts on the game table? Has researched pool tables that convert to ping-pong, and right now there are crazy deals online. We can get a pool table for $560, which is an over $1,000 value. We’re getting $500 from the LLM program, which we think we should at least match, and we think we can get really nice stuff in there. The alternative would be not getting a pool table, and just doing ping-pong. If we did that, the LLM program would cover the cost of the table, and we would cover the rest of the renovations.

MA: walked around with ST and thinks it’s a good idea to get the game table. We have a lot of similar spaces on campus. The lounges in the Library areas are more study areas, and it’s uncomfortable to hang out and talk. We want Knight to be more of a social area on campus. It would be very different from what we already have.

AW: agrees that it’s a good idea but has some concerns. These things break from wear and tear; have you thought about refelting the table, replacing balls, etc?

ST: those costs could come up, but they could be handled under Treasurer’s discretion. It wouldn’t have to come before SBA every time.

DS: depends on how Treasurer looks at what type of cost that is. We also have SBA operations account, so it wouldn’t need to go before SBA every time.

AW: these games can be loud. Is there concern about the adjacent classroom, KT 115?

BH: it’s pretty closed off, so we can’t say it won’t be loud, but it would take a lot to disturb a class.

ST: KT is a pretty loud building to begin with because of the Co-op.

DS: on the noise comment, we have a TV in the 4th lounge, and there was a concern about an adjacent classroom. We haven’t heard complaints and the TV does get loud.

JC: will there be enough room for both the TV and the game table?
ST: went with a 12’ tape measure, which was difficult, but it’s a bigger space than we thought, once you get rid of the big TV in the corner. Pool tables also come in different sizes; for example, we can look at a bar pool table, which is 7’. There’s plenty of room, especially since you have a lot of empty space at one end of the table.

MA: the wear and tear concerns are valid, but many schools and bars have tables with a lot of activity. We’re also not dealing with drunken undergrads who are going to mess up a game table.

AP: ST, you said we might be able to get $500 from the LLM program for the game table, but do we still want to get new furniture? Do we have money for that?

ST: we would not buy all the furniture we originally proposed if we get the pool table. We would get one coffee table instead of two, and two side tables instead of four. We just found Ikea stuff quickly, so let us know if anyone is opposed to that.

AP: with Ikea furniture, you have to put it together, and if you put it together it ends up badly.

ST: YM and I are professionals at that.

AP: if there’s money to spend, maybe we can get something nicer.

ST: since we’re getting less furniture, we can also explore getting something nicer, maybe not made out of wood. We could look into metal with a glass top, which would probably hold up better than a wood table from Ikea.

BD: is the Facilities Committee looking to table this proposal and come back with a new budget proposal including a game table?

ST: based on the numbers ST just got, if we were to allocate $3,000, we could do the game table plan cheaper than that. That would give the flexibility if we needed, even if we have to get something delivered. We could also probably get a different TV than we originally quoted. This is our last meeting as one SBA, and if this goes to the next meeting, we have to re-explain everything to the new reps. No purchases will be made without discussion with the Facilities Committee, and the SBA President, and the entire SBA if you want. Would really like to get the allocation sooner than later.

YM: when we did the update to the Library lounge, we did it with the caveat that if we couldn’t order the listed items, we could buy something comparable. Turned out that everything we asked for was out of stock, so we had to get similar items. Know that if we vote, we could end up getting comparable items.
DS: is there any difference between the pool table you’re looking at and one at bars?

ST: the really expensive, $1,300 table probably comes with really good felt. You probably run into felt issues when you look at $400 tables, or the ones that flip over and have air hockey on the bottom. Doesn’t anticipate it being an issue with the tables we’re looking at.

DS: have you considered coin-op to cover maintenance?

ST: hasn’t looked into it. Would probably have to look into a different supplier, but isn’t a huge fan of the deal. We’d also have to get a change machine.

BH: it’s a good idea to raise money for upkeep, but kind of disappointing if you had to pay.

DW: is against the coin-op idea. The fact that you can pop into the lounge and have a game is a good sentiment.

DS: any money we’re talking about isn’t operating funds. It would be coming from our reserve funds for capital improvements.

YM: any questions?

[no questions]

Motion to allocate $3,000 for Knight Hall renovations, including a game table – MA
Second: AL
Yes – all but 1
No – none
Abstentions – 1
Motion passes

YM: thanks ST for the amount of work that has gone into this. Thinks it will be a great addition. Final item is the Constitution. We’re not talking about substantive changes because we don’t want to force a vote with the current SBA. Wanted to address concerns about how we can improve the process. Knows it’s boring and arduous process, but it’s important for us to move forward. Folks seem to feel the e-board is controlling this process, but we didn’t see the revisions until you did, and the e-board also had their own questions and concerns. We’re doing this because the people who see the changes aren’t the reps, it’s the e-board and those directly impacted. The changes come before you because some of us do have to work with it regularly. We could give you a blank constitution, but that doesn’t seem fair to reps, which is why we proposed some changes. We’re not interested in wasting time, which is why we’re not
talking about substantive changes today. What can we do to make this a better process for the SBA?

DW: maybe it would help to explain the process for making changes to the Constitution and how a proposal comes forth.

MA: the e-board doesn’t write changes. MA did a bulk of the writing with help from the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. They gave their opinions, and then we sent it out to the SBA for feedback. Changes were then incorporated. Although MA is the one presenting the proposals, it’s the committee presenting it for approval, and e-board has the same input as other students. Although a lot of it isn’t pertinent to the students, and doesn’t affect how we operate daily, it creates problems for the e-board. For example, the Constitution says we have to elect Treasurer today, but also at our next meeting, which obviously doesn’t make sense. We are the largest group on campus and we want our documents to help us run well. The changes aren’t intended to empower certain positions, but help clarify our roles for students and the administration. The point is to clarify things for future SBA’s. It’s affecting future SBA’s. Understands the general lack of interest, but it does need to be addressed.

YM: wouldn’t bring this before you if it didn’t warrant your attention. Hopes that we hear from anyone if you have any suggestions for improving this process. Doesn’t want to talk at you, because this Constitution isn’t passed without you. Anything else on that? We’ll be talking about this on the 14th.

[no comment]

**Motion to adjourn meeting – AP**
Second – BH
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes
University of Connecticut School of Law
Student Bar Association (SBA) Meeting
03 14 2011, 9:30 PM, Library 202

Attendance (absences in strikeouts):

Executive Board:
Yamuna Menon, YM, President
DeVaughn Ward, DW, Vice President
Bethany DiMarzio, BD, Secretary
David Shufrin, DS, Treasurer

Class Representatives:
2L Day – Francisco Ruso, FR
2L Day – Matt Loftus, ML
2L Day – Robby Canning, RC
2L Day – Bob Yamartino, BY (see below)
3L Day – Michael Barrese, MB (see below)
3L Day – Sebastian Tornatore, ST
3L Day – David Shufrin, DS (see above)
3L Day – vacant
LLM – Laura Schmitt, LS
Upperclass Evening – Jamie Grace-Alvarado, JGA
Upperclass Evening – Mike Colandrea, MC
Upperclass Evening – Matt Grimes, MG
Upperclass Evening – Franklin Perry, FP
Graduating Rep – Angie Lachman, AL
Graduating Rep – Jon Schaefer, JS
Graduating Rep – Jeff Chase, JC
Graduating Rep – Zohaib Rasheed, ZR

Also in Attendance:
ABA Representative – Matt Zagaja, MZ
President Elect – Marco Allocca, MA
Secretary Elect – Brynn Cullen, BC
Treasurer Elect – Michael Barrese, MB
ABA Rep Elect – Bob Yamartino, BY
YM: call to order 9:31 PM.

**Motion to begin meeting** – ST
Second – ML
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion Passes

YM: public comment?

ST: welcome back from spring break!

JS: congrats Yam on your award!

*[no further comment]*

YM: moving on to approval of minutes.

BD: sent out the minutes from 2/28. Every week, we move to approve the minutes from our previous meeting, which means we verify that they’re accurate. I send them out in advance so you can check them. Any questions on the minutes?

DS: usually if you weren’t at the meeting or didn’t have a chance to review the minutes, you should abstain.

BD: any other comments?

*[no comment]*

**Motion to approve minutes from 2/28** – BD
Second – JS
Yes – all but 2
No – none
Abstentions – 2
Motion passes

DW: this week is March Madness kickoff. We had to change the date due to the TV schedule change, so the event has been moved from this Tuesday to Thursday, 12:30-6:00 PM. Please stop in and talk to Beatrice, the coordinator, to see if she needs help with anything and support the event. Very short notice, but the Med School reached out to DW over break and extended an invitation to do an event together. It’s a mixer
at Murphy and Scarletti’s this Saturday, 8:30-12:30, no cover, live band, $500 of free drinks which turns out to a free beer for up to 250 people. We agreed to purchase $500 worth of food, and there will be $2 beer specials. Was in favor of this event because we haven’t done an event with Med School this year, and we want to partner with them to create more future opportunities. If you can, come by, grab a beer, meet some Med students.

YM: any questions so far?

JGA: is there any way to identify who is who at these events? Who is from Med School, who is from Law School?

DW: thank you for the reminder. At the event, because of our basketball wins, we themed the night UConn Basketball. If you’re from the Med or Law school, wear white and blue. We tried to figure out something better for mingling, but there wasn’t really a better way to do it, so just look for blue and white. Anyone in the room with food will be a student. The best way to identify it might be to just introduce yourself to unfamiliar faces. Also, forgot to mention that Phi Alpha Delta is having a St. PADdy’s day gathering this Thursday.

BD: the St. PADdy’s day party is at the Wood-n-Tap this Thursday, shuttle buses will run from 7:30 PM to 12:15 AM.

DS: there will be a shuttle from school to Wood-n-Tap.

YM: any other questions?

[no questions]

DS: everything is running well. The budget goal we originally had is about $1,600 more by now. Supplemental requests: American Constitution Society requested $218 for food for speaker event, APALSA for $120 for mini golf, Phi Alpha Delta was allocated $325 for a bus for the event we just discussed.

BD: next meeting 3/28, same place and time. Attendance is expected at every SBA meeting. You will have at least one week’s notice. If you can’t make a meeting, let me know at least 24 hours in advance, or it will be unexcused. Four unexcused absence may result in removal from the SBA, so please let me know if you can’t come. On the 28th, we will do transitioning, which we will discuss later. Any questions about attendance?

[no questions]
BD: we have one office hour to fill on Thursday, 3/24, 8:30-9:30 AM. Is anyone available? You just sit in the SBA office in Starr Hall, keep the door open, answer questions and the phone if it rings, or just sit and do your homework. We like to keep the office staffed in case students come to see us.

[MG volunteers for the office hour]

BD: thank you Matt. Now turning it over to Brynn, Secretary-elect, to get your contact info.

BC: passing around contact sheet. Please give us an e-mail address you check.

YM: welcome back for those of you who are returning and welcome new members. Happy birthday Matt Zagaja and DeVaughn! We will swear in new reps and e-board next meeting, so everyone can be sworn in at the same time. We are hoping to apply for the ABA award for best SBA, and would love input from the SBA on the application. It’s somewhat lengthy and we would appreciate your input. Understands that new members might not have a lot of input, but we would appreciate any help you want to give. Will send that application out via e-mail. Finally, we had a recent turn of events with the SBA scholarship. We had considered a proposal where we would use SBA funds to endow a scholarship. A pledge proposal for $10,000 did go through last semester. Since then, we had an individual endow a $25,000 SBA scholarship fund. That means the SBA doesn’t have to spend those funds on the scholarship, and the Law School Foundation will sponsor the event we’re having. We had formed a subcommittee to figure out the terms of the scholarship, and we passed that info along to the Foundation. It’s private funds, so we might not get much input, but we did pass it on. Really excited about this development. Wednesday, 4/6 will be the Anniversary event in Blumberg Hall, 5:30-7 PM. Will send out an e-mail about the details. If you have a 6:30 class, feel free to head out early. It will be an event for current and former SBA members, as well as a few special guests of the Foundation; Kevin O’Connor, Rosemary Giuliano, and Hugh Keefe. You can also donate your breakage fee to this new scholarship. Is everyone clear? We’re no longer using SBA funds either for the event or the scholarship; it is now privately funded. We would therefore like to formally revoke the pledge that we made last semester. Any questions about that before we make a motion?

FR: will the minutes reflect that we’re revoking it because of a private donation? Doesn’t want it to seem like we just changed our minds.

YM: yes.

ST: do we have enough voting members here to revoke that?

YM: yes, we have quorum for the meeting.
DS: do new reps understand what we’re doing?

JGA: do new reps vote?

YM: yes.

BD: you should feel free to abstain from this vote, or any vote in the future, if you don’t feel comfortable or aren’t familiar with what we’re voting on, or just don’t want to vote yes or no.

ST: shouldn’t new reps be sworn in before they vote?

YM: swearing in isn’t actually part of the Constitution.

MA: can I speak?

YM: MA and BC aren’t technically SBA members right now, but it seems silly not to let them speak.

JS: yields the floor to MA.

MA: the swearing in is in the Constitution, but nothing says new members have to be sworn in before they are members. Every member becomes a member by walking into this meeting. If the proposed amendments pass, this will be different.

ST: remembers that he got sworn in so new reps could vote on something. Is OK with this though.

YM: spearing in is a formality the way the constitution is written, so we’re going to move ahead.

**Motion to revoke the $10,000 allocation from STIF funds to the SBA Law School Foundation scholarship, by request of the Foundation – DS**

Second – DW
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none

**Motion passes**

YM: moving on to Treasurer election. This runs just like a special election. The SBA gets to vote on Treasurer this evening. The candidates are MB and ML, who will be speaking this evening. One candidate will leave the room while the other stays, they can speak, we can ask questions, and then they switch. Then they both leave, and the SBA can
discuss, typically closed minutes, and we vote, typically secret ballot. Any questions on that procedure?

DS: traditionally, we vote to close minutes during discussion. Do we need to do that now?

YM: We only need to do that once. We can close the minutes after they leave the room. Will briefly review who gets to vote. Graduating reps can’t vote, ABA rep doesn’t vote, MA and BC technically aren’t in SBA right now and cannot vote. New and continuing reps get to vote, as well as ML and MB. Questions?

BY: can I vote? Was technically elected 2LD rep before being elected ABA Rep, and hasn’t been sworn into that position yet.

BD: that’s really unclear.

MA: MZ is no longer ABA rep?

YM: his transition is at the same time as the e-board.

BD: Bob got elected as a class rep, so that’s what he is until he transitions.

MA: ABA rep is not a constitutional position. This is why you should all pay attention when we talk about the constitution.

YM: sounds like he gets to vote, as a technicality, until he transfers into ABA position.

DS: no reason he has to give up SBA rep position right now.

MG: we vote by paper ballot?

YM: the constitution says we hand vote, but we do certain votes by secret ballot, should the SBA so choose.

DS: doesn’t the Constitution require secret ballot?

YM: no, it doesn’t say anything to that respect.

**Motion to secret ballot vote – MG**

Second – DS

Yes – all

No – none

Abs – none

**Motion passes**
YM: we will vote by secret ballot. Anything else before we call candidates?

[no comment]

YM: will go in order of the nominations sheet. MB will speak first. ML, please exit the room.

[ML exits the room]

FR: rising 2 and 3Ls can vote, right?

YM: yes.

MG: if there’s an even number of people voting, who breaks tie?

MA: if there’s a tie, the tiebreak goes to YM, if she didn’t vote the first time. Otherwise we continue voting until someone flips. To be changed later on in the amended constitution.

MB: running for Treasurer. Currently Treasurer of Mock Trial Society, Justice of Phi Alpha Delta, and has experience with the budgeting process. Was on budget committee both semesters this year. Wanted to do this last year, but DS won the position. Was a finance major in college, so is familiar with budgeting, and has done it at law school often.

ST: is there something from being on the inside of the budget process you want to change?

MB: spoke with DS about downsides of using Excel, and would like to go back to Word or amend the budget sheet to make it easier to use. We had a lot of trouble breaking down budgets and wants to make it easier for student groups. Also wants to make the daylong budget process less painful. Since we’re encouraging groups to collaborate, would like to have them all submit one budget for one event, rather than six budgets for one event, so we don’t approve excessive funds for one event.

DS: Treasurer is a big time commitment. What are you doing next year? Is there anything that pulls you away from campus for a day?

MB: mostly class. Probably won’t be working during the school year, but that would be max one day a week if that happens. Getting elected here is priority now, so this would come before other activities.

DW: what are your thoughts on SBA funding PILG fellowships?
MB: personally, likes what we did this year. Doesn’t think student funds should pay for student employment, but the school likes it and the students like it so is ok with it. Would rather give two fellowships like we did last year than none, but doesn’t want to see us give 4 or 5.

DW: what role do you think the Treasurer should play in the scheduling and the menu of particular events?

MB: it’s not my place to tell you when you can have events. If there’s a conflict, a suggestion could be made to the group to switch the date, but if a group doesn’t want to switch, that’s their decision, and then it’s up to the budget committee to decide how they want to fund events. As for food, assuming it’s not an absurd request, that’s up to the groups to request what they want. If you want an obscene amount of food for a lunch, I’ll tell you if I think it’s out of line, but if the group doesn’t want to change their request, it’s then up to the budget committee to decide what they actually get.

JS: is it appropriate to have dessert for lunch?

JC: is confused about who got elected to what so far this semester.

MB: is currently elected as a 3L Rep.

JC: who are the other 3L reps?

[ST, DS raise hands]

JC: do you think the Treasurer should impact having too many events in one week? You mentioned combining budgets, but do you think the treasurer has a role in promoting events or reducing events?

MB: would suggest it in an e-mail, but whether they want to propose the events is up to the groups. Not sure how the Treasurer could affect what groups would do, because they pretty much decide themselves.

JC: any personal opinion on the number of large events?

MB: doesn’t matter as long as the events are being well attended. Doesn’t like the fact that speakers come and three people attend. Would prefer limiting events and having better attendance.

AL: one issue this semester was budgets lacking detail. Have you thought of a way to fix that?
MB: if elected, would provide a sample budget. If groups don’t send a detailed budget, has no problem sending it back and having it redone. It’s not fun, but do it right or do it again.

ST: this year, we dipped into STIF funds for capital improvements. What’s your vision for STIF funds going forward?

MB: would love to improve the gym, which would be a primary goal. We already gave money for Knight, so that’s taken care of.

ST: so you’re ok with using those STIF funds for capital improvements?

MB: yes, that’s what they’re there for.

MC: as an evening student, would you support incentivizing clubs to have their activities after 5 PM with financial rewards?

MB: it’s better for evening students to be included, so if it were feasible, would prefer events at that time to bring out the greatest number of people.

MC: but would you back it up with money? Could a group get 5% more on their budget if they have events at or after 5 PM?

MB: Interesting idea. Can’t say yes or no to that. It depends on what you’re asking for. If you want to ask for dinner instead of lunch, you might get more money. If you’re just asking for an extra $50 on your budget, we might not be able to do that.

FR: recognizes BC.

BC: regarding STIF funds for the gym, what do you see your role as to get administration funds versus student funds?

MB: the first thing would be to get student ideas on it. If the student body backs the gym project, for example, it would be easier to discuss it with the administration. Then we would have to develop a good plan, and ask for money from the administration. If we have a solid plan for improvements and why we want to do it, as well as student thoughts, it would be a good way to approach them.

DS: more problems come up as Treasurer than you can imagine. If students came to you after hosting an event, and you know the event occurred, but they lost the receipts, how would you handle it? For example, a lunch event, purchase was for food.

MB: would presume that if they used credit, they can verify the purchase with a credit statement. Would have to discuss with DS to see exactly what the requirements are for
reimbursement. Would start by seeing what proof they can provide, ask others who attended what they bought. Would encourage purchases on credit for a backup if needed.

YM: any other questions?

[no questions]

[MB exits, ML enters]

ML: running for Treasurer. Has been on budget committee since membership on SBA. Has strong financial background – double major in finance and accounting, and has worked in accounting, so familiar with Excel and has seen a lot of budgets. Also worked with a sales team at a product development firm budget project. DS has done an excellent job this year, and got me up to speed on the budget process, which I was really interested in. It’s a lot of work, but a very important position with a lot of responsibility.

DS: what are your time commitments for next year?

ML: can’t see any right now. No externships or anything, so just classes. Am willing and able to handle time commitment.

ST: any changes envisioned for budget process?

ML: coordinating with student groups; some student group leaders didn’t understand what we were looking for in terms of specificity. Groups also had trouble coordinating on budgets, so would like to see those things change, maybe with more clarity up front to approve more budgets and make more informed decisions. Maybe set more guidelines for coordination rather than groups just handing each other money.

DW: what is your position on SBA funding PILG fellowships, and what do you think the role of Treasurer should be in terms of providing input on dates of events, food, speakers, etc?

ML: in terms of Treasurer input, not sure that’s appropriate for the treasurer position. Input in terms of keeping below predefined limits are appropriate, but where you can have an event or the date is more for the social committee and SBA at large to decide. In terms of PILG fellowships, doesn’t have a problem with it, as long as guidelines are followed. Top concern is that the student fee gets back to the students to be used. If there are guidelines, no problems with funding it, as long as funds get back to students in a way that benefits them.

MC: what are your thoughts on holding events 5 PM or later by adding funds to a certain group’s budget. Understands that dinner allowances might be more, but for simple
meetings, some evening students can’t attend. How would you incentivize evening events?

ML: incentivize how?

MC: not sure.

ML: for the idea, but would need to hear more specifics on how it could be done. Wants to see evening students, day students, everyone who pays an activity fee get it back. It’s not fair that evening students pay the same fees but can’t attend half the events. Would like to see more events, especially bigger events, held at a mutually agreeable time. For incentivizing, not sure about just adding to the budget, but there are ways it could be done.

DS: problems come up with this position. If students come up with an event, and it happens, but they lose the receipts, what do you do? Like for a lunch event with food.

ML: if there were no way to prove that it was done, it would be difficult. There are probably other ways to go about it. The restaurant might have records. Wouldn’t want to leave anyone high and dry; would want to see students reimbursed. Not sure what best way to do it would be, but there must be other records issued to the person running the event, so would look for a way to show that they sent the money. Would have some problem if there was no proof at all. For most situations, there’s probably a way to figure out how the money was spent.

ST: this year, we dipped into STIF funds for capital improvements. Are you ok with that?

ML: yes, has no problem with the changes so far, and has voted for them. As long as everything is reasonable, ok with that.

ST: what do you see as the Treasurer’s position in negotiating between SBA and the administration in lobbying for funds?

ML: not sure. Has no problem talking to the administration, and wants us to get as much contribution as possible from them. Would go to bat for SBA to get any funding we needed.

DS: hasn’t done much discussion with administrators except with some events, like Tara’s Crossing. Hasn’t gone to the administration for facilities issues.

AL: any ideas for streamlining the budget process?

ML: doesn’t know the specifics of communication before budget requests were submitted this year. For specificity problems, would communicate early and often. It’s
easy for e-mails to get buried, so might speak with people individually or hold a session saying what we’re looking for. Would open up to questions from groups. If everyone’s clear going into it, it would probably be easier to resolve issues.

**Move to close the minutes for discussion and disclose only who wins the election in the minutes, not the number of votes each candidate gets** – BD
Second – ST

DS: are we voting on both items at once?

BD: can separate if you want.

**Motion withdrawn** – BD

**Motion to close the minutes for discussion** – BD
Second – ST
Yes – all but 1
No – none
Abstentions – 1
**Motion passes**

**Motion to record only the name of the elected Treasurer in the minutes, not the number of votes each candidate got** – BD
Second – ST
Yes – all but 2
No – 1
Abstentions – 1
**Motion passes**

*minutes are close for discussion, and opened after election*

YM: congrats Mike on your election as Treasurer!

**Motion to adjourn meeting** – ST
Second – FR
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
**Motion passes**
University of Connecticut School of Law
Student Bar Association (SBA) Meeting
03 28 2011, 9:30 PM, Library 202

Attendance (absences in strikeouts):

Executive Board:
  Yamuna Menon, YM, President
  DeVaughn Ward, DW, Vice President
  Bethany DiMarzio, BD, Secretary
  David Shufrin, DS, Treasurer

Class Representatives:
  2L Day – Francisco Ruso, FR
  2L Day – Matt Loftus, ML
  2L Day – Robby Canning, RC
  2L Day – Bob Yamartino, BY (see below)
  3L Day – Michael Barrese, MB (see below)
  3L Day – Sebastian Tornatore, ST
  3L Day – David Shufrin, DS (see above)
  3L Day – vacant
  LLM – Laura Schmitt, LS
  Upperclass Evening – Jamie Grace-Alvarado, JGA
  Upperclass Evening – Mike Colandrea, MC
  Upperclass Evening – Matt Grimes, MG
  Upperclass Evening – Franklin Perry, FP
  Graduating Rep – Angie Lachman, AL
  Graduating Rep – Jon Schaefer, JS
  Graduating Rep – Jeff Chase, JC
  Graduating Rep – Zohaib Rasheed, ZR

Also in Attendance:
  ABA Representative – Matt Zagaja, MZ
  President Elect – Marco Allocca, MA
  Secretary Elect – Brynn Cullen, BC
  Treasurer Elect – Michael Barrese, MB
  ABA Rep Elect – Bob Yamartino, BY
  Advisor – Jane Thierfeld Brown, JB
YM: call to order 9:32 PM.

Motion to begin meeting – ST
Second – FP
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion Passes

YM: public comment?

ZR: thinks it’s important to have Campus Safety as a standing committee. Crime rates on campus go up and down, so the issue isn’t being heard. It will come up when I’m gone. Proposes a standing committee so progress can be made every year, and we’re not functioning on a reactionary basis. Long-term goal would be to do something at orientation and have dialogue at all times, which isn’t happening right now. It’s an important issue to consider.

[no further comment]

BD: did everyone get minutes from 3/14? Any comments or changes?

[no comment]

Motion to approve minutes from 3/14 – BD
Second – ST
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

DW: Spring Fling is 4/16. The SBA 50th Anniversary is coming up, please RSVP. Spring Fling tickets on sale next week. 3Ls, if you have ideas for graduation dinner, see DW.

JB: the 50th Anniversary is a great networking event. Working attorneys will attend.

ST: Spring Fling was in the digest, but can we send out an e-mail?

DW: will do that this week, once we get ticket info. We were able to secure a $1,500 drink voucher, to provide free drink tickets for a good number of students.

AL: how much will tickets cost?
DW: $15, which covers the boat, food, drink ticket. You’ll also be getting a favor, which is a whiskey glass.

MZ: really?

DW: yes.

DW: congratulates Diversity Committee for a great job on Diversity Week.

JS: happy birthday DW.

DS: not much to report. Supplemental budget process ends 4/8 for general purposes. All is well.

BD: next meeting 4/4, same place same time, then 4/18 and 4/25 if necessary.

YM: the 50th Anniversary is 4/6, 5:30, Blumberg Hall. We have half as many SBA members as alumni, which isn’t good. If you RSVPed, thank you, if not, please do. Attire is at least business casual; some of us will go in business formal since alumni will be there and there will be photo ops. Please attend, it’s a free party with food and drinks.

DS: what time? Can you come early or leave late?

YM: it starts at 5:30, remarks at 6:00 PM, but stop in any time and leave for class if necessary. I urge you to come because this is an event for us, in the name of the SBA.

JGA: what’s the date?

YM: Wednesday, 4/6, 5:30-7 in Blumberg, second floor of Hosmer, but come as your schedule allows. Two major items this evening are Constitution and swearing in new reps. Moving on to Constitution. Copies of recent changes are going around, then will defer floor to MA.

MG: has it been revised since it was e-mailed out?

YM: no.

MA: most of the changes here are grammatical or not substantive, but there are to major substantive changes. First is changing Treasurer position to CFO; with that change comes the fact that CFO will be appointed by President with confirmation from the SBA. This is because CFO shouldn’t take a policy stance and just make sure budget is balanced. Second change is new position, Parliamentarian, who would run meetings in a neutral way to avoid conflict of interest. It also would make meetings run a little more efficiently. The goal would be to keep order, and make sure people don’t speak out of
turn. This year, we’ve had some votes that aren’t clear what we’re voting on. Parliamentarian will be speaker of the house. Those are the two major changes. There are several other changes, such as making the impeachment process more comprehensive. Right now, the Treasurer can do whatever they want but not kicked out as long as they attend meetings. We added some impeachment language if the Treasurer is totally neglecting their position. Those are the major changes you should be aware of.

YM: questions about what Marco addressed or any changes?

MC: how is Parliamentarian chosen?

MA: also appointment with approval. It’s subject to either 2/3 or ¾ approval by the SBA. The idea is to prevent the president from putting an unqualified person in. It’s appointed because the Parliamentarian doesn’t have to be elected by the whole campus, they don’t have voting power, they’re just facilitating conversations. Same with the CFO.

MG: if the Parliamentarian came with the reps, do they still get to vote?

MA: they would lose their position as a rep if appointed CFO or Parliamentarian. Their rep spot would then have to be filled through a supplemental election. Whoever is appointed to those positions will not have voting power.

DS: does that apply to ABA rep?

MA: yes. The ABA rep is a new position here. They are elected by the student body to represent us in our circuit. They don’t have voting power in the SBA because they vote at ABA conferences. They come to general body meetings to give updates, stay aware of what’s going on, and give reports at conferences.

DS: can the ABA rep be a regular rep at the same time?

MA: there might not be explicit language to that. Ideally the answer is no, because we want to give our campus more representation, and the ABA rep represents a different embodiment; they represent the student body at circuit meetings. The idea then is that they’re not a voting member within the general body. We would have to add that language if you wanted it.

YM: MZ, given your experience, do you have thoughts on this?

MZ: looks fine to me. It makes more sense to not have ABA rep be SBA rep. It’s two different jobs with different issues. Doesn’t see that it’s inconceivable that you might want to be both, but thinks it’s better to have different people.
FR: do you want to change the name of Secretary to VP of Administration?

MA: yes. Secretary doesn’t really describe what the secretary does. They take minutes, but they also run the administrative aspects of the SBA. BD has done anything that involves administrative operations; reserving rooms, etc.

YM: can speak as past secretary; you do a ton of work and have an equal voice, but it’s hard because it seems like all you do is take minutes, although that’s a fraction of the work. The idea was to make them a more equal member. The Constitution also only has two lines describing the job, but they do so much more.

MA: Secretary also traditionally acts as elections chair, so the Administrative title means they make everything happen. It’s a semantical change, but there is a stigma to the term Secretary.

FR: valid arguments, but has a problem of wording with VP of Administration. Maybe Chief Administrative Officer?

MA: there’s no change in terms of it will always be President, VP, VPA, although is open to changing the title.

YM: anything that’s not Secretary is a step up.

MG: has never seen a model where the Parliamentarian doesn’t come from within the administration, and loses their vote. Seems unprecedented.

MA: this comes from UConn Student Government. Not opposed to them having a voting right, but then there’s a question of why having a Parliamentarian, when the President can run meetings.

MG: Parliamentarian also tends to be a rotating role, and usually each student will get a chance to do it. We can do that sometime down the road. The Parliamentarian should come from within and should be able to vote.

DS: concerns about having a rotating Parliamentarian. If we want to establish rules of order, we need to have one person who knows them. Another issue is the Parliamentarian coming from within the body.

BD: I tried to teach Roberts rules fall semester, didn’t go so well. If you want to enforce it, which it seems like we do, you need one person who is going to do it, because I tried and it was a big thumbs down.
JS: can’t imagine someone wants to be Parliamentarian. You have to pay attention, enforce rules, and you can’t influence the organization.

DW: how do you envision elections being run?

MA: it would be appointed with confirmation.

DW: so it could be someone who ran and then would be stripped from their vote?

MA: they don’t necessarily have to be a rep. None of this is set in stone. As proposed, the President can appoint anyone on campus, pending SBA approval.

BC: likes the idea of an appointed Parliamentarian. Right now, our SBA isn’t controversial, and people aren’t vying for attention, but that can happen. Who runs the meeting has a lot of power to influence what we discuss. We need someone who knows Roberts Rules, doesn’t have a vote, so they can’t promote their own agenda and create a conflict of interest. A removed party would be a benefit to our organization.

JC: thinks we need to have one person in charge of that. Nobody wants to learn the rules for just a few weeks. Does think nobody would want to run for it. Maybe someone will, but as a second option, maybe the VP could be backup. You’ll definitely fill e-board spots and it seems to make sense for the VP to fall to that.

JS: understands BC’s concerns, but if they didn’t have a vote, they still get to influence who speaks. Taking away vote doesn’t take away manipulation.

ST: what’s the vision for President during the meeting if Parliamentarian is enacted? YM has done a good job steering and being neutral. Would the President then just take part in debate?

MA: yes and no. The President is the policy setter and leader, but that doesn’t mean you have to run meetings. The Parliamentarian would ask for updates, and the President would still have a chance to speak. The President would also be involved in debate as all other members are. The idea is to put discussion back into the general body’s court. Doesn’t envision the President guiding debate, because the students should guide debate. If the President is involved in debate, but is also running the meeting, the President can control the conversation to meet their agenda. The goal isn’t to influence the body, it’s to represent the students.

ST: wouldn’t it make more sense to allow President to be Parliamentarian? YM, did you vote or abstain?

YM: it was always assumed that I was voting. So when we said “Any no’s” it was assumed that I was voting yes.
ST: maybe President can cast a vote if there’s a tie or something.

DW: attended BLSA conference, where every school had a Parliamentarian. The President’s role was usually to speak for the executive board, and the Parliamentarian facilitated discussion. It operated very well. Their sole job was to put a proposal in front of the board. If an executive board member were to assume the job, it seems like it would be within the Secretary’s purview, although that might be a little difficult given the minutes. However, if we record the minutes as well, do we really need them transcribed?

MG: maybe the issue is to have the Parliamentarian on hand for those discussions, let the President do it by default, and if we know we’re having a big conversation, use the Parliamentarian. A few student governments in undergrad had the VP presiding where President gave reports, another put in a role like this but it turned out terribly. Sounds like a sometimes position, not an always position.

JGA: wants to discuss the concern of finding someone for the job. We have a lot of type A personalities, and people like to run things, so it doesn’t seem like a problem. There’s a lot on the Secretary, just the minutes alone seems time consuming and there’s a lot of other work. Is it feasible, and would you consider sharing some of those responsibilities, or having another person taking on some of the Secretary’s work?

JC: thinks everyone wants to have someone run the meeting efficiently, and then maybe conversations wouldn’t run so long. There are times when we have contentious debates, but then we also need to have an eye on the clock and keep things moving, so it seems like we can find someone and it would help keep an eye on debates.

ST: building on what MZ said, thinks we need to adhere to Roberts Rules. Can we keep this idea in the pocket, and just have someone act as Parliamentarian when needed, giving up their vote for that one meeting or issue? It would probably have to be someone from within the SBA would give up their voting power.

DS: still has concerns, but would like to see language where we can revoke the Parliamentarian. We want to think forward. We may think this is a good idea, but it might not work for future boards. The e-board also does a lot of work, and doesn’t mean to diminish what BD said, but doesn’t think tacking on Roberts Rules to any e-board position is wise. We’re already overloaded. Having a separate person to learn it and prepare would be very useful.

MA: by implementing Parliamentarian, you’re changing the way the body is structured. Not opposed to making it someone who was elected to SBA and letting them keep their vote. Someone who is appointed can also steer conversations. It’s also very obvious if you’re steering things your way, and the body would figure it out. Not opposed to
making the position someone within the body, but is opposed to making it a part-time job. Organizations are creatures of habit, and switching things up throws us for a loop. Seems like people think the position is beneficial, but the concerns are who it could be.

BC: what about using ABA rep as Parliamentarian?

MA: thinks that would hinder an important position. The ABA rep is our representative to the outside world, but Parliamentarian is representing the school world, plus the extra work might deter people from running.

JC: can we move on? Are we voting on something? Let’s do whatever’s next.

YM: we can vote on pieces of the Constitution, or vote on it as a whole minus some parts, or move to take a vote, or move on, whatever. Doesn’t want to steer the conversation.

Motion to implement all constitutional amendments as proposed – JC
Second – MC

MA: the proper way to do this would be to motion to do something, then we can discuss, then we can move to vote.

Motion to amend the constitution – ST

MA: why don't we just discuss all the amendments?

JC: if anyone else has any comments, yes.

MC: would like to hear about other substantive changes. Can you list them out?

MA: CFO, Parliamentarian, addition of ABA rep, removal of officers, change of Secretary’s title. Those are the substantive changes.

YM: can we also list the impeachment provision?

MA: that’s the removal of officers. Also that CFO, Parliamentarian, and ABA rep don’t have voting power.

MC: can we get a show of hands a preliminary idea of who is in favor of the constitution as amended? Doesn’t want to close discussion if we don’t have enough votes.

Motion to change the title of VP of Administration to Chief Administrative Officer – FR
Second – ST
DS: not sure VP Administration is confusing, because you should also have a listing of responsibilities. Not opposed to the change, it seems fine, but we want to keep in mind resume value as well. Secretary has less value than the other two options.

BD: Agree with dave. Concern is that if we change title to Chief Administrative Officer, that can correspond to Chief Financial Officer, which doesn’t have a vote, so if we are separating a cabinet from an executive board, now the executive board titles are the same as the cabinet titles, and that can be confusing inside the SBA. I see what you are saying about it being confusing for people outside the SBA, but I think having similar titles but dissimilar voting power could be a little confusing.

JB: many years ago, the SBA had two Vice Presidents, no Secretary. First VP was social, second VP was Secretary. They later decided people were getting two confused, so it was changed to Secretary. You might want to go back to two VPs, which might work better for this SBA.

Motion to close discussion – BD
Second – MC
Motion to vote – ST
Second – DS
Yes – 10
No – 5
Abstentions – 1
Motion passes

Motion to table the remainder of the constitution to the next meeting, to allow for members to ask questions – MG
Second – DW

JC: why haven’t people read this? It’s been bouncing around. New people have been voted in, but won’t we get more people?

DW: because this is a mixed body, a lot of these changes should be voted on with the benefits of a full meeting. MG’s point is well taken because we have other business to attend to and we are doing this in a hurried fashion. Reps should get a full meeting and everyone’s attention. As an outgoing member, these are conversations that should be left to the entire incoming SBA.

BY: we might want to consider having a clear agenda for discussion next week, where we say what we’re going to talk about.

BD: We’ve sent this out now many times, I understand there are new representatives and I don’t fault you for not reading it. However, every time we send this out we say “Please read this, and please ask us questions.” As far as I know, all these questions that
are coming up tonight haven’t been asked when they could have been asked in a forum that doesn’t take up time. I understand the value of asking these questions in front of everybody, but I think I hear a lot of questions repeated. Although I am not opposed to tabling this, I urge you to think of your questions and ask them to Marco or someone before we get in here next week so that we can actually make some progress on this. I support the motion to table.

ST: strongly against tabling. These amendments were made during this administration, and if this gets put off to the next administration, why should that committee re-propose the amendments? It seems like we’re kicking this back and we’ll have to look at it again. This is nothing new, and it’s getting a little ridiculous. It’s owed to this administration to see the constitution get put through or not while they’re still in office.

JC: echoes BD and ST, but adds that MA is President at next meeting, and he worked on this, so it seems like a bit of a conflict.

MB: we’re wasting time discussing tabling. Do people still have questions about this? If so, let’s ask them now.

DS: understands that there’s a motion to table, but suggests that we take a vote. If you feel like you need more discussion, or can’t vote, either vote no or abstain. We’ll see if it passes. If it doesn’t pass, we can table because of time.

DW: doesn’t feel these conversations can be had in a time vacuum. The document has been around, but we do have new members. We’ve been soliciting comments on how to facilitate this discussion, and maybe it should be some type of agenda moving forward. Doesn’t think you can view the document by itself. It can take hours to go over these documents; these are lengthy conversations and shouldn’t be made in a vacuum.

BY: has read the constitution, but no matter how many questions are asked, will never feel entirely comfortable. Also not fair to pass this on to the next group, where people will understand even less about what happened.

**Motion to end discussion – AL**
Second – MC
Motion to vote on tabling – MB
Second – DS
Yes – 4
No – 10
Abstentions – 2
**Motion fails**
Motion to vote to approve constitutional amendments in their entirety as proposed – DS
Second – MC

MG: we just passed one amendment; does this motion include that change? We passed CAO amendment.

YM: that will be included in the current vote.

JC: are any typos fixed? Can we later fix any little things like capitalization?

MA: we should vote on this.

(Amendment) Motion to pass the amendments to the constitution as proposed, with the chair of the constitution and bylaws committee is permitted to make non-substantive changes as necessary – DS

Yes – 9
No – none
Abstentions – 7

Motion passes

YM: a few more final items, but will turn it over to the e-board first.

DW: had pleasure of serving on SBA in first year, and extreme pleasure of serving as VP this year. Although at times it was a labor of love, the discussion, debate, and hard fights shaped this organization for the better. Has taken a lot of joy and pride in serving with YM, BD, DS; nothing but respect and appreciation. The SBA is a storied body. Many great leaders come from this body. There’s a lot of history here and you all have a great responsibility in shaping the law school and greater community. Appreciates the opportunity to serve, best of luck in the future.

DS: term doesn’t end until June.

BD: You’ll have me next year. It’s been a great year, looking forward to next year.

YM: so, as you know, this is my last meeting. I have proudly served in this organization as a class representative, Secretary, and finally, as President. I am deeply honored to have had the chance to leave a footprint on this community, I’ve learned a tremendous amount from all of you, and I thank you for that opportunity.

I cannot walk away from this organization without saying thanks to those who worked so closely with me to do the best work we could. I would like to personally thank the members of the E-Board.
DeVaughn, I thank you for your vision, talent, and creative side in bringing together Social events. Your hard work has not only been noticed, but literally celebrated in our highly attended events. Thank you for reminding us that the law school experience extends beyond the classroom.

Bethany, your organizational title hardly reflects your actual impact and work within this organization. You have been tremendously dependable and your contributions cannot be overstated. I thank you for being the administrative and procedural backbone of this organization.

Dave, the management of the SBA finances does not come without its trying times, and you not only took it all in stride, but rose to the occasion. You promoted a level of transparency and open communications that we have not before seen. I sincerely thank you as well.

And finally, but not lastly, to all of the representatives. I have had the pleasure of working with most, if not all of you, individually, and wish I had the time to speak to each of your talents and contributions. I thank you for trusting me with the great task of leading this organization, and most importantly, I thank you for your hard work and dedication to the SBA. You took the responsibility of representing your classes seriously, coordinating and organizing projects, event programming, and initiatives, and it was all of you who made this the best experience for me.

I strove to run the organization competently, diligently, and perhaps most importantly, with care and sincerity. My ultimate goal for the SBA was to leave it in a better place than when I took office, and I will leave it to your judgment as to whether we successfully did so. And while this SBA accomplished some good things over the past year, there is always room for improvement. There are things I wish I would have done better, but I hope at least that it provided an opportunity for the next leadership to reflect on this year and work towards further improvements for a better SBA all around.

My final words for the SBA? I don’t need an ABA award to know that I had the honor of leading the best SBA in the country. And for that, I thank you.

In my last act as President, I would like to pass the gavel to the next leadership. Marco, I have all the confidence that you will lead this organization efficiently, effectively, and with integrity, all while maintaining our commitment to serving the student body. I am proud to introduce to you your 2011-2012 SBA President, Marco Allocca.

Last item of business is swearing in the 2011-2012 SBA. Can all members please stand?

I solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, and the Constitution and the ByLaws of the
Student Bar Association. I will faithfully discharge, according to law, the duties of the office of SBA Board member, to the best of my abilities.

MA: thank you Yam. You did a lot for the SBA and everyone appreciates it. There wasn’t a time I walked by Starr Hall and the office light wasn’t on. We know you’re working hard. Thank you for the way you left the SBA and for everything you’ve done for the board.

At the next meeting, we’ll be talking about Commencement, which requires some help from underclassmen. Eight volunteers are needed on May 22nd. There’s no definite commitment yet, but please consider it, we need SBA involvement. It’s a Sunday on the lawn. Next Wednesday, for the SBA 50th event, please be there. It looks bad if we have less current students than alumni.

MG: spam our e-mails about it.

FR: business dress?

MA: business casual at a minimum. Also, as many of you know, ST has acted as fearless leader of the Facilities committee. He’s leaving for bigger and better things, so if you’re considering being on the committee, please think about it. Ask ST or MA about the requirements of the position.

ST: there’s a project going on now, so the hope is to work on the project together to transition.

Motion to adjourn – ST
Second – JS
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes
University of Connecticut School of Law
Student Bar Association (SBA) Meeting
04 11 2011, 9:30 PM, Library 202

Attendance (absences in strikeouts):

Executive Board:
Maro Allocca, MA, President
Bethany DiMarzio, BD, Vice President
Brynn Cullen, BC, Secretary
David Shufrin, DS, Treasurer
Michael Barrese, MB, Treasurer-Elect

Class Representatives:
2L Day – Francisco Russo, FR
2L Day – Matt Loftus, ML
2L Day – Robby Canning, RC
2L Day – vacant
3L Day – Michael Barrese, MB (see also above)
3L Day – Sebastian Tornatore, ST
3L Day – David Shufrin, DS (see also above)
3L Day – vacant
LLM – Laura Schmitt, LS
Upperclass Evening – Jamie Grace Alvarado, JGA
Upperclass Evening – Mike Colandrea, MC
Upperclass Evening – Matt Grimes, MG
Upperclass Evening – Franklin Perry, FP
Graduating Rep – Angie Lachman, AL
Graduating Rep – Jon Schaefer, JS
Graduating Rep – Jeff Chase, JC
Graduating Rep – Zohaib Rasheed, ZR

Also in Attendance:
ABA Representative – Robert (Bob) Yamartino, BY
Advisor – Jennifer Cerny, Jen C
MA: call to order 9:32 PM.

Motion to begin meeting – ST
Second – MG
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion Passes

MA: good evening everybody, this is my first meeting and our last meeting of the semester. Just as a point of clarification before we get too far into it, last week we passed the constitution, there is a parliamentarian position in it. We haven’t appointed one yet and I think it works out well that we start the new year with a parliamentarian, so for this meeting we will run it similar to how Yam ran those meetings, and then at the first meeting next year we will appoint someone as parliamentarian and go from there. Also the benefit of that is that whoever we plan on appointing can spend the summer reviewing Robert’s Rules and actually have it down. So outside of that, approval of the minutes?

BD: did everyone get minutes from 3/28? Any comments or changes?

[no comment]

Motion to approve minutes from 3/28 – BD
Second – ST
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

MA: Public comment?

Jen C: LSE survey I am sure everyone has taken the LESSE survey, I think there was an email about it, it’s a great way to have positive changes, it’s completely anonymous and basically those responses and the data we get back get shown to different groups on campus and help improve different departments on campus. It’s a chance for you to voice your opinion about certain things on campus. It really is a valuable use of time, it only takes a few minutes.

MA: Any other public comments?

[no further comment]
MA: Before we get into the regular updates, our board thought it would be a good idea because we realized that there are a lot of new members and we will be working together for a few weeks before the 1Ls come in, so we thought it would be a good idea to just say who everyone is, because some of you might not know each other and we want everyone to feel comfortable talking to each other. So, I’ll stand up. I’m Marco Allocca I am the president of the SBA and I am a rising 3L.

MB: I’m Mike Barresse, I’m also a rising 3L, and I’ll be Chief Financial Officer next year.

DS: I’m David Shufrin, I’m a rising 3L and the outgoing treasurer, I will be a 3L representative next year.

BD: Hi I’m Bethany, I am the outgoing secretary and the incoming Vice-President. And I am also going to be a 3L.

MC: I’m Mike COlandria, I’m a rising 4LE, I study patent law and I work down at Pfizer.

MG: I’m Matt Grimes, and what he said, except I work at the Hartford.

FP: I’m Franklin Perry, a rising 2LE, and hopefully Facilities Chair.

LS: I’m Lisa, I’m a graduating LLM rep, but since you won’t elect one until September, I’m still here.

Lisa Tran: Hi I’m Lisa Tran, I’m a rising 2L.

Wyatt Jansen: I’m Wyatt Jansen, not on SBA, but I’m the incoming chair of Student Committee reporting to Faculty Appointments Committee.

BY: Bobby martino ABA Rep, rising 2L

RC: rising 2L rep.

JS: graduating 3L

ST: rising 3L

ML: rising 2L rep

Jen C: 2008 graduate, Assistant Director of Student Services

MA: We move to exec updates, I’ll go first, constitutionally daves term doesn’t end until june or july for fiscal reasons, both of them are up here but mike is still an SBA rep until he takes over dave’s spot. Claudia Nordsworth asked me for commencement help for
the 3Ls, really, what you do is show up on commencement day and we need about 8 or 9, and you man the entryways to the tent, hand out programs, answer questions professionally, and you pop champagne when the students graduate. It’s really easy, May 22nd, it’s a Sunday. If you are interested come up to me after the meeting.

We have several committees that need to be filled – facilities, budget, social, safety, const and bylaws, and elections committee. So just think about what you want to be on, and if you want to chair any of them a lot are open to chair, and we will probably appoint those people at the beginning of next year.

Wyatt pointed out that he’s here, I have appointed him to the faculty advisory committee, new faculty members being interviewed on campus have the ability to be interviewed by students as well. He was the chair last year as well.

BY: who are you currently looking at?

Wyatt: not currently interviewing this semester, last semester had a bit of interviewing, but there isn’t much that will be done before next year, it just depends on budgeting.

DS: The head of the committee asks people to help interview, is there any particular way you would choose committee?

Wyatt: Yeah I think marco and I have met with the outgoing chair, and we work together with the SBA and we are going to send out an email to students and ask for brief statements of interest, and we only take about 6 people and we try to have evening students but we interview during the day. Looking for people who represent student interests. [inaudible]

MA: just to note usually this committee falls outside the SBA, we like to expand outside SBA members. Any other questions?

[No comment]

One of the things we talked about with the executive board was the falling in the rankings. I know a lot of people are concerned and the eboard would like to do something about it. One of the ideas we had was to have some meetings during the day and invite the deans, invite Dean Paul in and let students ask questions. We just want to let people know that we are aware of the problem and looking into it. If you have an idea, let us know, it affects everyone. Final note – there are several positions for memebrrership, so at the beginning of next year, we will have nominations campus wide for 2L and 3L positions and we will try to do that in conjunction with the 1L elections. That’s it from me, on to Bethany.
BD: for next year my focus is going to be on helping student groups, I think one of the problems we ran into last year is that everybody wants student groups to have their events, and I know administration is there to help, but we thought it would help to have the SBA involved in that as well — what group is doing what, how the budget process works, and general issues that the student groups have. In the meantime, if anyone has any questions or comments, just about general SBA stuff or particularly how the student groups are operating, just let me know.

MA: No update from Byrnn right now. Update from the treasurer?

DS: We’re still in the black.

MA: I want to open it up to committee updates, though I don’t know Sebastian if there’s any update on facilities that we’d need to be aware of?

ST: Still waiting on a new facilities chair and they will get things ordered and talk to Dr. Brown, and this summer will be a big time to get things together. Hopefully when we come back in the fall we will be all set to start.

MA: Bethany do you want to give a social update?

BD: You’ve gotten a ton of emails about Spring Fling – it’s on a boat, it’s this Saturday, so buy your tickets if you haven’t already, and upcoming events would be graduation dinner, and midnight breakfast around exam time.

MA: And midnight breakfast will be May 5th. Sebastian will be heading that up, and you’ll see why when we move to new business. Moving to new business, Bethany?

BD: Historically the VP of SBA is also the social chair, but this year the exec board decided to do things differently, so before I was elected I asked Sebastian if he would take on the role of chair of the social committee.

**Motion to approve ST as Social Chair – BD**
Second – ML

MC: ST, do you actually want to do this?

ST: Yes. Also, if you guys got the facebook invite for spring fling, remember to invite the undergraduates.

MG: what’s the reason for the mechanical change?

MA: It’s not exactly a mechanical change, under the constitution the VP is the default social chair, and it says that the position can be delegated. One of the reasons we
wanted to do this is to really allow the VP to interact with the students more, as it is now the SBA is very unaware of the what the student groups are doing besides funding, so we wanted Bethany to be the liaison there.

BD: Also, this isn’t permanent, it’s just for this one year, so it doesn’t have to be next year. Because we are doing a lot of changes because of the way the parliamentarian position was added, its going to be a transitional year for us, and the more I can help out the more stable things could be, and because I’m a continuing board member, I think I could help out with that.

DS: I just want to point out it’s not unprecedented, and I thionk Gabe had told me that it was delegated at one point in the past.

Motion to vote – LS
Second – MC

MA: ST, can you leave room?

[ST leaves room]

Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

MA: Really there’s only one other thing for new business. President of BC law’s SBA sent me an email. What the email basically said was that the president was trying to set forth legislation to actually have the federal government get the department of education actually receive reports from law schools, and it would make transparency a priority. If everyone is aware of what happened with Villanova, they seem to have fudged some of their numbers, and I think this bill is trying to get at that. So can everyone read this? My concern is this – he wants me, as the SBA president, to sign on to this bill, and he asked me to make that decision by Friday. However I don’t think its my discretion to do that without information from this body, because really it is University of Connecticut School of Law student body signing this if I do it. So I’d like to have a vote, but I’d like to have a discussion.

Motion to sign the bill as proposed – MA

ST: Just to get a better backroung, is this transparency to get info to USNWR,

MA: Actually it would be to Dept. of Education, who would keep a list of this.

ST: Don’t law schools already report this?
MA: It seems from this legislation they don’t, and honestly

MG: UConn is subject to FOIA as a state school so it wouldn’t affect us.

MA: Yeah, I mean, we are subject to FOIA but this would set out specific criteria to report.

BY: who would produce this report?

MA: It would require the law school to report it and then certify they were truthful.

BY: can we force the school to do that?

MA: This is actually us signing a petition to get legislation to make this in act.

BD: I read the bill as a whole, and one thing that caught my attention is that schools should be required to submit every student’s employment and what type of work they do – and they already do that kind of thing for USNWR, so I would hesitate to sign on to this without knowing what we do now, and how signing this bill would affect our rankings, and without knowing if this would help us or hurt us, I hesitate to sign on by Friday.

LS: Have you talked to anyone at the Dean’s Office about this bill? It’s hard to support without knowing how it affects them.

MA: Quite literally, I got this last night – I did not talk to the dean’s office, but on a note – the SBA represents the students, and it is this body’s goal to do what is best for the student body, and not to say we should fight with the student body, but -

LS: agrees that we shouldn’t fight, but would be good to know what they thought about it.

MA: the question is, does the student body think this would help us?

ST: To comment on BD’s point, if we think students are already mad about e-mail volume from administration, I wonder how they’ll react when they ask for this minute data about your employment. People are already upset about how much communication we receive. I don’t see this being very popular.

BY: I did speak to the Dean about this recently. He said UConn goes above and beyond in reporting transparency, so administration might not have a problem with that request. As a tactical matter, it might be wise to approach them before going ahead with it.
MG: I have the same concern as BD. I have experience with the Dept. of Education, and it creates problems. [inaudible] Scared to see them wanting to get involved in law schools.

MC: As far as this is concerned, because we are a public school, we don’t have as much to hide. I think it would be beneficial to us, and give the private schools more pressure.

DS: I’m concerned about the administrative burden, is it going to force the administration to hire someone who will make sure this stuff is reported accurately? That could take money away from other things like student services.

JS: having just completed graduation employment survey, which is required to get your diploma, they ask a ton of information, including how much you’re getting paid. They say nothing on that survey gets released to anyone except Career Services, who only accesses it as necessary. They send the data to US News.

MA: Just to note, The bigger concern I have is the timeline, that I feel forced to make a decision. I am not 100 percent concerned as to what the administration’s position is. It is up to us to decide what is best for the student body. The biggest concern is that he wants us to sign by Friday, and if I am going to sign off on it, I do want to know what the administration is thinking, even if it might not affect what we do.

MG: can we do a straw poll to see who is in favor of signing?

MA: all those in favor: 1  
Opposed: 6  
Abstain: 4

MA: should we entertain a motion to vote?

LS: can we postpone voting on it until after we get a chance to read it?

ML: as an alternative, can we vote with conditions attached? [inaudible]

MA: I’m not sure I’m not comfortable with conditional approval, I’m not sure what the guidelines would be.

DS: Generally concerned about voting on it because none of us have looked at the bill or know about it or know about the administration. I like that MA brought it to the SBA, but he doesn’t need our vote to sign it, and I get a sense we are all voting it down.

MC: I would recommend that we can take an official vote, but I would feel like you could just go to him and say we need more time if you want us to make a decision.
ST: doesn’t get point of bill. Is it saying that by reporting to Dept. of Education you’re less likely to be shady to US News and World Reports? Doesn’t see why we need it.

DS: Just to add on, is there any idea of punishment if you don’t do it properly.

MA: I don’t know for sure, but I didn’t get a sense of that. I get the sense that people aren’t comfortable voting on it, but do we vote it down now, or do we think we can get people the language and vote on it, but the thing is we would need to do that by Friday.

MB: We could email it out tonight all of us to everyone at SBA, and then read it and email you by Wednesday so that we get a better sense of it?

MA: Any opinions on that?

MG: if you do that and don’t hear from a majority of us in the affirmative, don’t sign it.

MA: This isn’t something official, but I would never sign something that has UConn’s name on it without a majority of this body, so even with an unofficial vote, if I didn’t have a majority in favor I wouldn’t do it.

ML: How many would we need for a majority?

MA: How many members do we have Bethany? Not sure? It wouldn’t be a quorum of who is here tonight, it would be based on the members we have as a whole. It’s a significant number.

BD: We have 19 voting members, and quorum is a majority, so we need 10 people to vote on anything, not that this is official, but 10 people are needed to vote, and then we need a majority from them so 6.

DS: You stated that you wouldn’t do it with UConn’s name on it, but did you mean the SBA’s name?

MA: We yeah essentially we sign it as the representative as the student body, obviously I can’t sign it as the law school. It would be as the student body president.

DS: Can we see what everyone thinks about voting now while we have quorum to give Marco discretion to sign or not based on the responses, this way if you have concerns, it’s clear.

Motion to provide the e-board with the authority to speak on behalf of the SBA in signing this bill based on their discretion, provided that ten or more members of the SBA respond via e-mail in the affirmative – DS
Second – ML

ST: I still think you have this power regardless of whether we give it to you.

MA: I agree, to clarify, but I want it to be noted that I was consulting the SBA

MC: I think you won’t get ten responses.

MA: Yes that’s a possibility.

Motion to vote – ST
Second – MC
Yes – all but one
No – none
Abstentions – one
Motion passes

MA: announcements?

ST: DW might still be looking for people to man buses for Spring Fling. You get a free ticket. Contact me or DW. Midnight Breakfast will be on 5/5, eggs, bacon, etc. The administration and professors serve food.

DS: Any word on exam coffee?

ST: Will talk to DW about that. Knew my one event would be Midnight Breakfast, but will talk to him about that. We do that through the bookstore?

DS: Yeah we get it through them and we usually put down about 500.

ST: will talk to DW about it.

MA: this is our last meeting this semester, I want to thank Dave as the treasurer, and I think our budget was in better shape than it usually is.

Motion to adjourn – ST
Second – FP
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes